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TORONTO • WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2009 metronews.ca

Celebrity pg 37

Lohan gets some new ink

Something to lose sleep over

SUMMIT "Don't let the bedbugs bite."

Doesn't seem so bad in a cheerful bedtime rhyme, but it's becoming a really big problem now that the nasty critters are invading hospitals, college dorms and even swanky hotels in the U.S.

With the most effective pesticides banned, the U.S. government is trying to figure out how to respond to the biggest bedbug outbreak since the Second World War.

Faced with rising numbers of complaints to city information lines and increasingly frustrated landlords, hotel chains and housing authorities, the Environmental Protection Agency hosted its first-ever bedbug summit yesterday. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Sports pg 15

Panel picks Stanley Cup winners

Travel pg 30

Leap of faith in Zambia

ShareYourViews
torontoletters@metronews.ca

k-os Rappin' at Much

MUCH MUSIC PHOTO

k-os talks with MuchOnDemand yesterday about his new album Yes!, which was released yesterday. Pick up the weekend edition of Metro, available Friday, for an in-depth look at the world of k-os.

Sacrifice in vain?

Relative of soldier killed in Afghanistan speaks out

The godfather of a young female soldier killed in Afghanistan just two weeks into her first deployment fears the young woman's sacrifice was in vain.

Echoing the sentiment of many Quebecers, who have consistently been among the most vocal opponents of the controversial mission, Mario Blais said it's time for Ottawa to pull Canadian troops out.

Karine Blais

"I think she did this for absolutely nothing," Blais said during a telephone interview.

"The Russians were in Afghanistan for many years and they couldn't push them back. I ask myself what Canada is doing. We were blue berets, now we're fighters."

Blais made the comments after learning his 21-year-old goddaughter, Karine Blais, had been killed Monday by a roadside bomb north of Kandahar City.

She is the second female Canadian soldier to die in Afghanistan since the mission began in 2002.

Blais said Prime Minister Stephen Harper should "get the troops out of there as fast as possible" and the Canadian military should return to its peacekeeping roots.

"I'm worried for all those who are there," he said of the latest rotation comprised largely of Quebecers based out of CFB Valcartier.

"I don't think it's our place at all, at all, at all. We should be leading peacekeeping missions, not combat missions like we're doing."

Blais said news of Karine's death came as a "shock" to her many friends and relatives who are now grieving in her hometown of Les Mechins in eastern Quebec.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MORE COVERAGE, PAGE 12

The Force is with Sheridan College arts student

Who is the Jedi knight?

A. Luke Skywalker
B. Obi-Wan Kenobi
C. Randolph Lizarda
D. All of the above

The answer: D, all of the above — or at least it will be by the end of the summer.

George Lucas' elite Jedi Academy was "looking for a few good Padawans" — you can check, it's right there on the website. One they found was 21-year-old Randolph Lizarda, a Sheridan college student enrolled in the applied arts and animation program.

Randolph Lizarda

The Scarborough resident applied to the prestigious internship at Lucasfilm studios in February. Every year, about 1,500 applications from around the world flood the studio's San Francisco office. Only four are selected for the arts program. Lizarda has just learned he was one of them.

"I'm very excited. I'll be working in the LucasArts division animating video games, although I don't know what we're working on. They wouldn't tell me — it's confidential," Lizarda said on a break from class yesterday.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Woman hit after jumping out of her own car
A woman was struck by a car in Scarborough minutes after jumping out of her own car following a dispute with her husband. The victim, 33, was hit by a Toyota Corolla near McCowan Road and Sheppard Avenue East around 11 p.m. Monday, police say. She suffered two broken legs. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Local

City to unveil 'Ed Mirvish Way'

Mayor David Miller, Deputy Mayor Joe Pantalone and Coun. Adam Vaughan with Anne and David Mirvish will unveil a new street name sign "Ed Mirvish Way" to honour the late Ed Mirvish. The public are invited to join the Mirvish family and friends at the naming at noon today at the northwest corner of King and Duncan streets in the Entertainment District.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

INDEX

Canada Pg 8
World Pg 10
Comment Pg 13
Business Pg 14
Sports Pg 15
Workology Pg 17
Metro Drive Pg 21
Travel Pg 26
Entertainment Pg 32
TV Listings Pg 36
Celebrity Buzz Pg 37
Take Five Pg 38

Tomorrow's Metro

Music

Local songstress Melissa McClelland, who will perform tomorrow at the Dakota Tavern, talks about her new album Victoria Day.

metronews.ca

What's online today.

Video A gang war and seemingly random murders have some in Vancouver on edge at **metronews.ca/canada**

Video New artifacts from the Titanic go on display in Halifax at **metronews.ca/canada**

Video Prime Minister Stephen Harper tours flood-ravaged Manitoba at **metronews.ca/canada**

Lotteries

Ontario Pick 3: 4 9 0; **Ontario Pick 4** : 9 1 8 3
Encore: 6436431
Daily Keno: 3, 7, 10, 16, 19, 20, 29, 35, 37, 43, 45, 47, 56, 57, 58, 64, 65, 66, 68, 70.
These results are not official.

News in brief

GUNS Police are trying to track down 17 rifles and shotguns that were stolen from an Ajax business over the long weekend. Employees of the Mackenzie Avenue business called police after discovering the missing weapons.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Creating a kid-safe Internet

New service offers parents a chance to customize child's web options

A Canadian-developed Internet software program is putting kids' online safety literally at their fingertips by using their one-of-a-kind prints as their personal ID prior to accessing the web.

It's among several safety components featured in Dolphin Secure, which launched yesterday, aimed at providing children with a secure Internet experience and parents with a little peace of mind.

Rather than run the risk of keying in a user password that could be stolen, altered or simply forgotten, kids enter their username and scan their fingerprint instead which matches up with a unique number inside Dolphin Secure's system.

Each child then has access to a personal, customizable home page, similar to social networking sites like Facebook or MySpace, and can chat with other kids registered with the service.

However, unlike other sites where individuals can be contacted by potential unknowns, parents are allowed to set parameters determining who their children can speak to, as well as control which websites they visit.

"Kids need to be able to use the Internet," said Bill O'Dowd, CEO of Dolphin Digital Media at a media event. "So the only question for us as the adults is how do we try and keep kids safe as they're learning to use the Internet.

"Our approach is (to) try and build a social community for kids on the Internet where we can have a realization that the people on there are the kids."

NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Aria Wallace, 12, places her finger on the Dolphin Secure's fingerprint reader in order to gain access to the Internet using the new software made by Dolphin Secure in Toronto yesterday.

The company offers two levels of service. Dolphin Basic, which costs around $3.75 US per child per month, allows parents to set guidelines for Internet use, but does not feature the fingerprint option offered in the Dolphin Secure package at $5 US per child per month, where they can build profiles and reach out to friends.

WiredKids.org, a website dedicated to keeping kids' safe online, has been hired to give guidelines and monitor appropriate websites kids can visit. But O'Dowd said it's up to parents to determine if they want more sites added on the list or even removed.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Woodbine Beach **Springtime fun**

CARLOS OSORIO/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Steven Nederveen is seen kite surfing on a windy day at Woodbine Beach in Toronto.

Bar owner challenges medical marijuana order

LAWS A Burlington bar owner is taking steps to clarify the limits of medical marijuana use in public.

Ted Kindos, of Gator Ted's Tap and Grill, has filed a federal court application asking that people permitted by Ottawa to use marijuana for health reasons remain subject to provincial laws.

He wants the court to declare he doesn't have to serve such users when doing so would violate the Ontario Liquor Licence Act, putting him at risk of losing his business. The act says he can't serve anyone possessing a banned substance.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Grades, Facebook time linked: Study

RESEARCH The time students spend "poking" friends, posting photos and updating their status on Facebook may bear some relationship to how they're faring academically, a new study suggests.

Researchers found that students who use the popular networking site spend less time studying and have lower grade point averages compared to those not on Facebook.

Study co-author Aryn Karpinski, a doctoral student and graduate teaching associate at Ohio State University, said the researchers wanted to look at demographic differences of student Facebook users and non-users and to investigate their typical profiles.

The researchers surveyed 219 students at Ohio State — 102 undergraduates and 117 graduates — in the summer and fall quarters of 2008.

Facebook users were typically younger, full-time students majoring in statistics, technology, math, engineering and medicine, Karpinski said.

When it came to academic achievement, Facebook users surveyed had GPAs between 3.0 and 3.5, a B, compared to non-users with GPAs between 3.5 and 4.0 — an A, said Karpinski.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Studying

- Researchers found those on Facebook spent one-to-five hours a week studying compared to their non-Facebook-using counterparts who devoted between 11 and 15 hours weekly to hitting the books.

More TTC stations getting train arrival info

The TTC has extended the number of subway stations offering next-train arrival information on video display screens. As of yesterday, the service was available at Finch, Union, King, Queen, Eglinton West, St. George, Bay, Yonge, Keele, Bloor, High Park and St. Andrew stations. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Greening up the city

Exhibit showcases innovations in urban agriculture

Inuvik is a long way from 50 Cent's hometown of Queens, N.Y, but the hip-hop mogul shares something in common with people in the Northwest Territories community — helping citizens to flex their green thumbs.

Inuvik residents and the award-winning rapper, whose real name is Curtis Jackson, have worked to establish or refurbish community gardens in their respective hometowns where locals can grow their own food.

What's more, both have incorporated eco-friendly elements into their frameworks. The Inuvik Community Greenhouse, built within an abandoned arena, has an on-site composting facility, while the Curtis "50 Cent" Jackson Community Garden uses rainwater collected in two underground cisterns to irrigate the garden while also providing a place for kids to play.

The two projects are among several featured at "Carrot City: Designing for Urban Agriculture," an exhibit showcasing innovations in city farming and gardening and shining a light on urban dwellers involved in community gardening projects around the world.

THE CANADIAN PRESS/DARREN CALABRESE

Cardboard construction tubes act as planters for an exhibition called "Carrot City: Designing for Urban Agriculture," in Toronto on Friday, April 3, showcasing innovations in city farming and gardening while also highlighting urban dwellers involved in community gardening projects around the world.

Carrot City

- "Carrot City" runs until April 30. For more info go to www.ryerson.ca/carrotcity.

Ryerson University professor Mark Gorgolewski and associate professor June Komisar, both with the department of architectural science, along with Joe Nasr of Ryerson's Centre for Studies in Food Security, are curators of the exhibit. Gorgolewski said the intent of Carrot City is to explore urban agriculture's effect on building and city design.

"We were interested to think about ... if we're going to produce food more locally what does that mean for the city?" he said in an interview at the exhibit at the Design Exchange in Toronto.

"How are spaces in the city going to change? What sort of buildings should we be designing? What sort of spaces between buildings, and also how much food can we potentially produce from within the city environment?"

While estimates vary, Gorgolewski said somewhere between 30 and 50 per cent of the food needed for eating in Toronto could theoretically be produced within the country's largest city. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Not enough kids get flu shots: Study

HEALTH Most Ontario children are not getting flu shots even though free vaccinations are available under the province's universal immunization program, a new study suggests.

Researchers at the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences conducted a survey of caregivers for 4,854 children during the 2006-2007 flu season.

Only 10 per cent of infants aged six months to two years had received the right number of flu shots.

The first time a child under nine gets a flu shot he or she should actually get two shots for it to be effective, explained Jeffrey Kwong, an ICES scientist and co-author of the study published yesterday in the journal Vaccine.

10% Only 10 per cent of infants aged six months to two years had received the right number of flu shots.

Infants and kids with chronic conditions are considered high-risk, and the target is to have 70 per cent of these children vaccinated.

The rate of flu shots in Ontario infants was lower than other provinces, the study found. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Green energy plan questioned

JOBS How serious is the Ontario government about creating 50,000 green-collar jobs within three years?

That's the question many power developers are asking now that details of a proposed green-energy purchase program are beginning to emerge. They say the program's draft rules make unrealistic assumptions about the cost of financing projects and stray too far from the European model it's attempting to emulate.

The Ontario Power Authority, which is designing the program, assures that nothing is written in stone — yet — and that it's open to constructive feedback.

The agency announced in March that its feed-in tariff program, called FIT, would pay generous premiums to renewable-energy developers who agree to sell power to the province under 20-year contracts. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Small cars fail safety test

AUTOS Science has finally confirmed what motorists have been saying for years: Cheap Minicars may be attractive in the face of rising gas prices and a faltering economy, but they perform poorly in crashes with larger vehicles.

A Daimler Smart Fortwo, a Toyota Yaris and a Honda Fit, all 2009 models, saw their safety ratings fall to poor, the institute's worst rating, in the frontal collision tests. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

CRASH A teen has been charged with dangerous driving and another teen is in hospital with serious injuries following a bizarre car crash on a residential street in Brampton. The passenger was sitting "in and around the car," and somehow fell from the vehicle and was struck.

PROTEST About 300 retired autoworkers turned out yesterday in front of Finance Minister Dwight Duncan's Windsor office for the first of a series of protest rallies this week. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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BEAUTY *at the Bay*

Man faces numerous gun charges

A man faces a litany of charges after he was arrested while carrying three handguns and a shotgun in the Galloway and Kingston roads area last week. Clifton Golding, 20, is charged with 26 gun-related offences, including discharge of a firearm endangering life. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

We're a nation of binge drinkers: Study

A new study suggests much of the drinking done in Canada is being done in excess.

Researchers from the University of Victoria's Centre for Addictions Research say that at least half of alcoholic drinks — and probably much more — is being consumed on days or in weeks when drinkers have exceeded safe drinking limits.

According to the study, those limits are three drinks a day or a total of 10 drinks a week for women and four drinks a day or a total of 20 drinks a week for men.

The study found that 54 per cent of alcoholic drinks were consumed either in a drinking session that exceeded the safe limits or in a week when the safe limit was surpassed.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Risky drinking

- The problem is even more acute among young drinkers, the study says. Nearly 80 per cent of drinks consumed by 15- to 24-year-olds were drunk in a risky fashion, on days or in weeks when excess consumption occurred.

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KEITH BEATY/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Bishop Reding Secondary School students Sarah Bonin, 16, Khaled Hashem, 18, Thomas Thibault, 17, and teacher Bruce Mazer program Zippy Bot to find its way through a maze. More students are choosing computers as a career.

The return of geek chic

Nine years after the dot-com bubble burst, the Facebook kids are choosing computers as a career — in enough numbers to make computer profs lol.

After losing up to half the enrolment they had during the boom, campuses say the drop has stopped and geek chic is back as teens and their parents spy a job field growing like BlackBerrys.

"The whole nature of this job market has changed — we've got co-op students doing work terms with Mozilla Firefox in California, who get jobs before they're through and we have to urge them to finish their degree," said Rick Miner, president of Toronto's Seneca College, which has seen a 30 per cent jump in demand for the four-year Bachelor of Informatics and Security.

Milton Grade 12 student Sarah Bonin hopes to study computer science this fall at the University of Waterloo or McMaster University, with hopes of one day programming robotic machines for factories.

"My friends tease me about being a computer geek, but it's not really an insult any more because computers are where everything's going," said the 16-year-old student at Bishop Reding Secondary School. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Enrolment grows

- Enrolment in undergraduate computer science programs across Canada and the United States grew 6.2 per cent last year — the first increase in six years, according to a recent report by the Computing Research Association.

News in brief

ACCUSATION A 53-year-old man and a 29-year-old woman are accused of molesting a boy at a Township of King nudist park in the 1990s. York Region police said the victim became acquainted with the pair and was sexually abused from the age of six to 12, from 1992 to 1998. The male accused is charged with sexual assault, sexual interference, two counts of invitation to sexual touching and possession of child pornography. The female accused is charged with sexual assault and sexual interference.

THEFT Police are looking for suspects in the theft of a 400-kilogram safe from the Habitat for Humanity renovation materials store in East York. Police report the safe held just less than $10,000 in cash. Employees showed up for work a week ago to find the store's glass door smashed at 29 Bermondsey, near O'Connor Drive and St. Clair Avenue East, and the safe gone. Nothing else was stolen.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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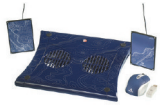

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Canada

Fear grips town

Parents at missing girl's school worried for children

Parents at eight-year-old Victoria Stafford's school in Woodstock, Ont., dropped their children off amid a heavy air of worry yesterday as classes resumed without the missing girl following the Easter long weekend.

Victoria Stafford

"I'm terrified for my children," said Heather Ditchfield, a mother of two, including an eight-year-old girl. "I can't let them go anywhere without me ... I'm just really shook up."

Victoria, known as Tori to friends and family, vanished outside Oliver Stephens Public School after classes last Wednesday and was seen on surveillance video walking with an unidentified woman.

Oxford Community Police released an enhanced version of the surveillance video Monday, but so far neither officers, nor the family nor members of the community have been able to identify the woman with Tori.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

A frame from an enhanced version of a surveillance video showing Victoria Stafford walking with an unidentified woman.

A traumatic events response team met with staff Monday — which was a school holiday — to teach them how to deal with the children, said Kate Young of the Thames Valley District School Board.

Eight counsellors were at the school yesterday to help the children cope, and Young said the school was trying to keep the day as normal as possible for the 230 students because children like routine.

It's a difficult time for everyone in the school community and beyond, she said.

"I'm sure every parent at this school and every parent in Woodstock and in Ontario and Canada is thinking twice about how their children are getting to and from school today," she said.

The investigation into the disappearance was in its sixth day yesterday after police ended their ground search the day before. The investigation has not taken police beyond the city of Woodstock, according to the information they have released to the public.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

NOVA SCOTIA Eight new schools will be built in Nova Scotia as part of a seven-year, $307-million program that had the Opposition claiming yesterday that a spring election in the province is likely. Liberal Leader Stephen McNeil said the timing and nature of the announcement smacked of "electioneering" by the Conservative government.

B.C. New Democrat Leader Carole James didn't wait for Premier Gordon Campbell — she hit the campaign trail early yesterday, well before the premier even officially launched the election. The New Democrat election bus made its first stop in Vancouver yesterday morning.

BARRIE Police in Barrie have ruled out foul play in the death of a 27-year-old man whose body was found in a city park on Monday. The discovery of the body at the bottom of a ski hill was initially treated as a suspicious death and possibly the city's first homicide of the year.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

RCMP officers didn't engage in coverup, Taser probe told

INQUIRY Erroneous statements by the four RCMP officers involved in Robert Dziekanski's death were nothing more than innocent mistakes, not a sign of a coverup, says a lawyer for the federal government.

A public inquiry into what happened when Dziekanski was stunned with a Taser at Vancouver's airport has heard of numerous inaccuracies between a witness video and the statements officers gave to homicide investigators after the fatal encounter.

All four officers initially told investigators Dziekanski was yelling as they arrived at the airport arrivals area early the morning of Oct. 14, 2007, and moving toward them swinging a stapler.

They said he continued standing after the first shock and had to be wrestled to the floor.

But the Mounties recanted at the inquiry, where the witness video has been played again and again, refuting the version of events they gave before the video surfaced.

"There is a perfectly innocent explanation."
Jan Brongers, lawyer

The lawyer for the Polish government has accused the officers of outright lying, but a lawyer for the federal government said yesterday that is not the case.

"Much time was spent attempting to highlight the fact that there were some discrepancies and suggesting that there was some nefarious explanation," Jan Brongers told the inquiry.

"My point is that other witnesses, too, have had discrepancies between what they told police, and that there is a perfectly innocent explanation."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Police end drug search signage
Cornwall police have suspended using signs on front lawns to point out homes where drug searches have taken place. THE CANADIAN PRESS

SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Karlheinz Schreiber testifies at the Oliphant Commission in Ottawa yesterday into his business dealings with former prime minister Brian Mulroney. Commission counsel Richard Wolson questioned both his credibility and his motives in promoting a project to build German-designed light-armoured vehicles in Canada.

Schreiber on hot seat

German businessman's credibility questioned

Karlheinz Schreiber arrived for his starring role at a public inquiry yesterday promising to blow the lid off the scandalous behaviour of Brian Mulroney's former Conservative government.

Within hours, however, it was Schreiber who was on the hot seat, as commission counsel Richard Wolson questioned both his credibility and his motives in promoting a project to build German-designed light-armoured vehicles in Canada.

The swift reversal came as Schreiber, in his opening day of testimony before Justice Jeffrey Oliphant, recounted how he made a deal with Mulroney to bring the former prime minister on board as a lobbyist for the project once he'd left office.

The deal, supposedly struck at a 1993 meeting at the prime minister's summer residence on Harrington Lake, lies at the heart of the inquiry into the business dealings between the two men.

But Wolson noted pointedly that, in previous testimony in a 2004 court case, Schreiber played down his personal contacts with Mulroney and never even bothered to mention the key Harrington Lake meeting.

"When you were asked under oath, you left it out," Wolson declared.

The 75-year-old German-Canadian businessman tried to dismiss that as a misunderstanding. In 2004, he said, he thought he was being asked only about meetings involving a European helicopter company. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bear Head

- Once he had been sworn in, Schreiber insisted that, if the so-called Bear Head project had gone ahead and the Canadian Forces had bought the armoured vehicles designed by Thyssen AG, Canadian soldiers wouldn't be dying today from roadside bombs in Afghanistan.

News in brief

BIKER TRIAL Threats over outstanding debts, ominous hints about a predicament, and idle chatter about prescription drugs and fast food were intercepted by police in the days before eight bodies were found in southwestern Ontario, a court heard yesterday.

MILITARY The Canadian military is staging a rock concert at a Halifax landmark this summer to support its overseas troops and entertain their families at home. Frank Cleysen of the Canadian Forces Halifax Personnel Support Program says the concert on Citadel Hill is being funded by non-taxpayer dollars raised on military bases.

LAWSUIT Johanne Durocher, the mother of a Quebec woman allegedly held captive in Saudi Arabia, is filing a lawsuit against the federal government. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Harper pays visit to water-logged town

FLOODING Prime Minister Stephen Harper got a bird's-eye view yesterday of one area in flood-washed Manitoba and said the federal government is ready to help any way it can.

Harper

Harper was speaking in Winnipeg after a helicopter tour over the town of Morris south of the city.

"The federal government stands ready to assist in any way that is needed ... as the situation unfolds," Harper said.

He wasn't asked about a suggestion from Morris Mayor Dale Hoffman that the federal government help build a sort of super-floodway to protect land all along the Red River during flood season.

But Harper did note that it costs less to spend money on ways to protect against flooding rather than pay for its consequences.

"It's much cheaper for the federal government to contribute to some of these mitigation measures ... than to contribute to all the various disaster relief actions every single year."

Harper also walked the earth dike protecting Morris and stood next to Highway 75 that runs from the U.S. border to the Manitoba capital. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Mexico from.....2.9 ¢

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Ukraine lawmaker arrested for trying to sell plutonium

Ukraine's security service says it arrested a regional legislator and two businessmen last week for trying to sell radioactive plutonium for $10 million US. The suspected 3.7 kilograms of plutonium-239 can be used to make a so-called dirty bomb. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

Blagojevich pleads not guilty

Ousted Illinois governor Rod Blagojevich pleaded not guilty to federal corruption charges yesterday, making official his denial of political malfeasance that authorities say included a scheme to sell President Barack Obama's former U.S. Senate seat. Blagojevich looked relaxed as he stood alongside his brother, who also pleaded not guilty in the scheme. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

N.Korea vows to restart reactor

REACTOR North Korea vowed yesterday to restart its nuclear reactor and to boycott international disarmament talks for good in retaliation for the UN Security Council's condemnation of its rocket launch.

The International Atomic Energy Agency said North Korea ordered the immediate expulsion of its inspectors and told the UN nuclear watchdog it was reactivating all of its nuclear facilities.

Kim Jong Il

North Korea told inspectors to remove seals and cameras from its Yongbyon nuclear site and leave the country as quickly as possible, an IAEA statement said.

Pyongyang informed the IAEA it was "immediately ceasing all co-operation," the statement said.

The vow to restart its nuclear reactor and boycott international disarmament talks was a serious step in the wrong direction, White House spokesman Robert Gibbs said.

Russia, voicing regret over the move, urged Pyongyang to return to the negotiating table. China, North Korea's main ally, appealed for calm. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Taliban protected under Swat deal?

SHARIA Pakistan's imposition of Islamic law in the Swat Valley to blunt a gathering Taliban rebellion will protect militants accused of brutal killings from prosecution, a hardline cleric who mediated the peace plan said.

Sufi Muhammad — who led tens of thousands to fight U.S. forces in Afghanistan — said the new courts would not hear complaints from Swat residents about Taliban leader Maulana Fazlullah, who is the cleric's son-in-law, or his followers.

"We intend to bury the past," he told ARY channel. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bangladesh **Celebrating first day of Bengali New Year**

PAVEL RAHMAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bangladeshis participate in a rally in Dhaka yesterday to mark "Pahela Boishakh," the first day of the Bengali New Year.

Palin's woes multiply

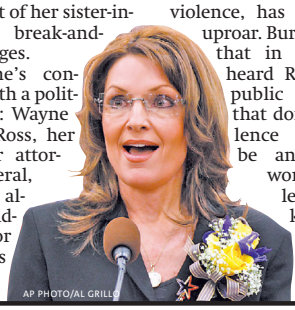
Choice of allegedly anti-gay attorney general kicks up storm

Sarah Palin's attempts to shake the hillbilly tag tied to her by wary Republicans are being hamstrung by the sordid revelations of her daughter's ex-boyfriend and her choice of an anti-gay lawyer as Alaska's attorney general.

Alaskans are consumed with the woman who is playing coy about her aspirations to run for president in three years amid family and political theatrics that would do Jerry Springer proud.

Palin has recently endured the teen father of her first grandchild telling family secrets to Tyra Banks and the arrest and indictment of her sister-in-law on break-and-enter charges.

Now she's confronted with a political storm: Wayne Anthony Ross, her choice for attorney general, has an alleged fondness for rape jokes and doesn't like homosexuals.



AP PHOTO/AL GRILLO

A letter from Leah Burton, a lobbyist on children's issues and domestic violence, has caused an uproar. Burton alleges that in 1991, she heard Ross say at public meeting that domestic violence "wouldn't be an issue if women would learn to keep their mouth shut."

At the hearing, Ross denied making that statement, and also denied making the suggestion in the same conversation that it was acceptable for a man to rape his wife.

Yesterday, there was more bad news as the Huffington Post obtained a 1991 column written by Ross in defence of a statue of a KKK figure as an expression of free speech on a college campus.

A vote on Ross' nomination is to be held tomorrow. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

AVALANCHE An avalanche hit an Indian army post in Himalayan Kashmir early yesterday, killing seven soldiers, an army spokesman said. The army rescued eight soldiers who were partially buried by the cascading snow at an altitude of 4,300 metres in the Shasmbari forest area in Indian Kashmir, said Col. K. Umamaheswar. The region, close to India's de facto border with Pakistan, is 130 kilometres north of Srinagar. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Somali pirates on a hijacking spree

BRAZEN Somali pirates captured four more ships and took more than 60 crew hostage in a brazen hijacking spree, while the American captain who escaped their grip planned to reunite with his crew and fly home today to the U.S.

Capt. Richard Phillips and his 19-man crew will reunite in the Kenyan port of Mombasa today. The four pirates who attacked the Alabama were between 17 and 19 years old.

Pirates have attacked 78 ships this year, hijacking 19 of them, and 17 ships with more than 300 crew still remain in pirates' hands. Each boat carries the potential of a million-dollar ransom. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Vessels seized by pirates since Sunday

- MV SEA HORSE: Lebanese-owned cargo ship attacked and captured yesterday by pirates in three or four speedboats.
- MV IRENE: Greek-managed bulk carrier with 21 Filipino seamen aboard seized in rare overnight attack early yesterday.
- EGYPTIAN FISHING BOATS: Two boats hijacked with a total of 36 crew, at least 24 of them Egyptian on Monday or Sunday.

Man jailed for spraying feces, urine

BRITAIN An unemployed chemist was jailed yesterday for spraying a mix of urine and feces on food, wine and children's books in several British stores.

Sahnoun Daifallah was sentenced to nine years in prison after being found guilty of four counts of contaminating goods.

The 42-year-old Algerian carried a mix of his waste in a container of weed killer concealed in a laptop bag. Using the nozzle, which poked out of the bag, Daifallah was able to spray large areas, leaving a powerful stench.

Police were able to identify Daifallah using security camera footage. When they raided his home, they found a stockpile of the substance and plans to spread it. Plastic bags containing excrement were marked with the names of cities on them. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Easing curbs not enough: Castro

CUBA Fidel Castro says the Obama administration did not go far enough in softening sanctions, and criticized it for leaving in place the embargo that bars most trade and travel between the two countries.

But many in Cuba saw the changes as a humanitarian gesture.

"You can imagine what it is like to have a marriage by telephone," Berta Maria Mayor said as she awaited the plane carrying her husband back to Cuba for the first time in three years. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Alleged Nazi earns a reprieve

DEPORTATION The return of alleged Nazi death camp guard John Demjanjuk to Germany for trial on war crimes was delayed again yesterday by a federal court, shortly after immigration officers removed the retired autoworker from his Cleveland home in a wheelchair.

The court granted a stay to consider Demjanjuk's motion in which he says medical ailments would make travel torturous. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

THE 20-MINUTE TORONTO MAKEOVER

Pitch in Friday, April 24 at 2pm and help clean litter off our streets. Reuse a plastic bag from home or get Makeover litter bags and gloves at participating Pizza Pizza locations and City of Toronto Community and Civic Centres starting April 7.

The next day, on April 25, you could tidy up your neighbourhood as part of Mayor David Miller's Community Clean-Up Day.

Register your group to arrange litter pick-up for either event at toronto.ca/litter or call 416-392-7899.

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World's first cloned camel born in Dubai

A scientist says the world's first cloned camel has been produced in Dubai in the United Arab Emirates. Nisar Ahmad Wani, a reproductive biologist at the government's Camel Reproduction Centre, says the cloned camel is a one-humped female called Injaz, or Achievement. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Woman charged in slaying of girl

CRIME A woman kidnapped, raped and murdered an eight-year-old girl and stuffed her body in a suitcase that was dumped in a pond just a few kilometres from home, prosecutors alleged yesterday.

Melissa Huckaby, 28, was charged with murdering her daughter's playmate, Sandra Cantu, in Tracy, a Northern California city. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Grim beginning for Van Doos

Canada's storied Van Doos bade a solemn farewell to an energetic young soldier yesterday whose death two weeks into her first tour of duty served as a grim beginning to the legendary Quebec regiment's latest stint in Afghanistan.

Trooper Karine Blais, 21, was killed and four other Canadian soldiers were wounded Monday when their armoured vehicle was struck by a roadside bomb blast in Shah Wali Kot, north of Kandahar.

About 1,000 soldiers from various NATO countries gathered on the tarmac at Kandahar Airfield to bear witness as Blais' casket was loaded aboard a waiting military transport.

"We will remember Karine as a woman who loved to smile, who was full of energy and who was very friendly to everyone around her," Padre Martine Belanger said. Blais was madly in love with her partner, Hugo, whom she called "Kermit," he said.

On the ground in Kandahar just two weeks, Blais was serving with the 2nd Battalion of the Royal 22nd Regiment, also known as the Van Doos, but was a member of the 12th Armoured Regiment of Canada. Both are based at CFB Valcartier, Que.

Her death came a day before the Royal 22nd took the reins from the 3rd Royal Canadian Regiment of Petawawa as the primary battle group in southern Afghanistan.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

ART & MARTHA STERN PHOTO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bo in Texas at his breeders when he was 6½-weeks-old.

DOG'S DAY First pooch Bo got star treatment at the White House yesterday, and even presidential clearance to visit the Oval Office. Americans got their first look at Bo as President Barack Obama and his family showed off their new six-month-old Portuguese water dog. The puppy was born in Texas, then moved to his first owner's home in Washington, D.C., then spent a month with Senator Edward Kennedy's dog trainer in Virginia.

THAILAND Leaders of demonstrations that plunged the Thai capital into chaos called off their protests yesterday after the rioting killed two and injured 120. Police issued warrants for 14 people, including the ousted prime minister at the heart of three years of turmoil. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Georgia **Caged protest**

SERGEI GRITS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Demonstrators stand in cages they say symbolize that Georgia has turned into a police state during a rally yesterday in Tbilisi. With street protests in their sixth day in the Georgian capital, opposition leaders called on demonstrators to keep up the pressure until President Mikhail Saakashvili steps down.

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Comment & Views

Comment

Why are cops camera-shy?

Incidents of seized photos, videos should be alarming

TheWestView

Paul Sullivan

metronews.ca/thewestview

A policeman's lot is not a happy one. Gilbert and Sullivan got that right. On the one hand, we expect the thin blue security blanket will keep our streets and homes safe, and maybe that expectation is unrealistic, considering all the sharks and other predators on the prowl these days.

On the other, we depend on police to model saint-like behaviour as they try to control crime, and whenever they go over the line or even come close to it, we all shriek in unison: "police brutality."

As often as not, they go to all that trouble to arrest and charge the bad guys, who just laugh because they know some soft judge will put them back on the street to prey and prey again.

But whatever happens, we should be able to count on the boys and girls in blue to tell the good guys from the bad guys. Here in Vancouver, that's not a sure thing.

Exhibit A: A recent photograph of newspaper photographer Jason Payne, held in an armlock by a Vancouver Police officer who was trying, successfully it turned out, to seize his camera, because he thought it captured pictures of officers shooting a man in the act of ramming a police car with a stolen truck.

To be clear: the officer manhandled a citizen and journalist and confiscated his property, even though the photographer had broken no laws and the officer had no warrant and had not made an arrest. The officer simply took the law into his own hands.

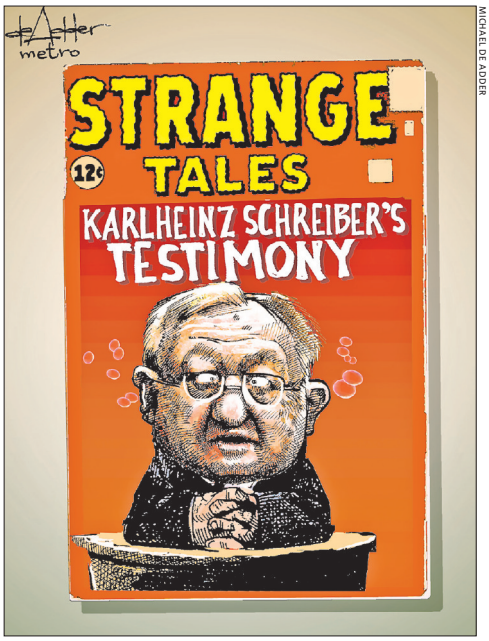
Coming after a number of high-profile incidents of police in Vancouver, er, upholding the law with extreme prejudice, including an all too similar incident when police seized the cellphone of a man who captured a fatal police shooting on a downtown street, you have to wonder what it is about a camera that brings out the worst in our city's finest.

Then, of course, there's the infamous Dziekanski incident, in which RCMP officers Tasered a confused Polish traveller for the crime of brandishing a stapler, then tried to confiscate the video evidence after the event. But it was too late. That video now stands as tragic witness to police allegedly abusing their power.

Apparently, police are having trouble deciding which threat to pursue, law breakers or picture takers. Surely they know now that everyone over the age of four has a camera phone, it's useless to try to stamp out video evidence. As in the Jason Payne case, there's always a backup citizen journalist in the crowd.

So the police might as well just do their best in the full light of day. Then they never have to worry about who's photographing whom.

Paul Sullivan is a Vancouver-based journalist and owner of Sullivan Media Consulting; vancouverletters@metronews.ca.



MICHAEL DE ADDER

Letters

Euro comparison flawed

Re: Reforming health care means reforming illusions

Although we agree with Dr. Keith Martin, Member of Parliament from B.C., that Canadian health care needs to be improved, there is no evidence to support his assertion that more private competition is the best solution. In fact, Europe has produced much evidence to the contrary.

Governments in Canada spend less on health care than most European countries. Dr. Martin's comment that Canada spends more on health care than the average European country, although true, is misleading because the private sector in Canada spends more on health care than in many European countries according to the OECD.

Dr. Martin glosses over debates raging in many European countries about the integration of private and public services. For example, in one of France's national newspapers, three doctors recently pointed out that increased competition in the hospital sector has resulted in exorbitant extra-billing. According to a French official equivalent to our auditor-general, the extra-billing has reached €2 billion ($3.3 billion) a year. Documents filed by the government of British Columbia during the court case with owners of private for-profit clinics reveal that extra-billing will also be part of Canada's future if there is increased private-sector involvement in health care.

We all know that Canadian healthcare is far from perfect. Dr. Martin is right to push for change, but we strongly disagree with his prescription. The evidence in Canada, Europe and the United States shows that it is within the publicly funded not-for-profit health system that Canadians get the best value for money. Let's stick with evidence-based solutions that will benefit all Canadians, not just those who can afford to pay.

LINDA SILAS, PRESIDENT, CANADIAN FEDERATION OF NURSES UNIONS, KAAREN NEUFELD, PRESIDENT CANADIAN NURSES ASSOCIATION FOR NURSES FOR MEDICARE, AND DR. DANIELLE MARTIN, CHAIR, CANADIAN DOCTORS FOR MEDICARE

Word on the street: Twitter, Facebook or MySpace: Which do you prefer and why?

Charnelle Cole
age 20, Toronto
A: Facebook. You can see everything: birthdays, old friends, people writing on your wall... and it's good for the wives. You can catch men cheating.

Anastasia Zhuk
age 20, Toronto
A: Facebook. Most of my friends are on it already, so I just don't want to have to switch everything over.

Kris Haig-Brown
age 22, Toronto
A: None of them. I'm way too cool for that crap.

Mike Beall
age 24, Ottawa
A: I don't have either. I prefer phone conversations.

Sara Tchoryk
age 24, Montreal, Que.
A: I only use Facebook. I've never been on the other ones.

Vincent Goreham
age 24, Halifax, N.S.
A: The only one I use is Facebook. I don't have a smartphone for Twitter. The only time I use MySpace is to check out bands.

Metro Online Poll Results

26% SAID YES

Did you watch last night's series finale of Corner Gas?

Weigh in on today's question at metronews.ca

74% SAID NO

It's your turn to tell others what you think. Email your thoughts and opinions to: torontoletters@metronews.ca

Letters must include sender's full name, address and phone number – street name and phone numbers will NOT be published. We reserve the right to edit letters.

Lenders preparing Chrysler counteroffer?
A person briefed on secret negotiations says banks and other lenders that hold $6.9 billion US in Chrysler LLC debt will soon make a counteroffer to the government and Chrysler that likely will include an equity stake in the automaker. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Business

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EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

In brief

JOBS Hallmark Cards is cutting up to 750 jobs, or eight per cent of its U.S. workforce, as it struggles with falling sales. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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First-timers back

Low rates, cheaper prices lure homebuyers

Low mortgage rates and more affordable homes are pushing first-time homebuyers to enter the market in droves, Canadian real estate experts say.

Phil Soper, president and chief executive of Brookfield Real Estate Services, said when the Canadian housing market was hot, bidding wars forced many buyers to put in offers without conditions.

This, combined with unprecedented increases in home prices, scared many first-time buyers, he said.

But he said the economic downturn changed all that. As housing prices fell and lenders lowered their mortgage rates to attract borrowers, the market became much more attractive to people looking to buy their first homes.

BMO senior economist Sal Guatieri said he expects resale prices to fall "moderately further" this year for a cumulative decline in prices of approximately 20 per cent, but he said the slump in prices is slowing as buyers respond to renewed affordability in the market.

Brad Lamb of Toronto-based Brad J. Lamb Realty said sales in March through the Multiple Listing Service fell by only seven per cent, compared to drops of 45 to 55 per cent in previous months.

And the average time it took to sell a home in Toronto dropped to 39 days in March from 45 days in February, he added. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mortgage

- The average mortgage payment has fallen by one-third or $600 a month from its peak, while resale home prices have fallen 14 per cent from highs seen in mid-2007, according to BMO senior economist Sal Guatieri.

Johnson & Johnson's profits stay healthy despite sales dip

SALES Health-care products maker Johnson & Johnson said yesterday its first-quarter profit dipped only slightly, beating Wall Street expectations, despite falling sales around the world.

The world's most broadly based health-care company said the recession cut into consumer products sales, but the biggest drag on revenue was the stronger U.S. dollar, which pulled down overall revenue by six per cent. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MIKE DEBER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
Johnson & Johnson is known for its consumer products.

Korean firm buying Denison

MINING Korea Electric Power Corp. has a deal to buy a 19.9 per cent stake in Toronto-based Denison Mines Corp. for $75.4 million, as well as one-fifth of the company's production of uranium oxide starting next year. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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on Thursday,
April 16, 2009

LAW DAY 2009

Select lawyers, including Ontario Bar Association lawyers, in the Toronto area will be accepting phone calls to answer questions and provide free legal information to the public on Law Day - April 16, 2009 from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Existing files are excluded from this service and a fee may be charged for any calls received outside of these hours.

Business Law
Archana Medhekar
Archana Medhekar Law Office
416-977-4204

Employment and Wrongful Dismissal Law
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2009 marks the 27th anniversary of the Charter and Rights and Freedoms. Phone-A-Lawyer is a project of Law Day, an annual public legal education program of the Ontario Bar Association in cooperation with the Ontario Justice Education Network, Law Society of Upper Canada and the Association of French Speaking Jurists of Ontario (AJEFO). Law Day is celebrated each year to mark the signing of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms in 1982 with the aim of promoting public understanding of the justice system and the role of judges and lawyers in our society. The Phone-A -Lawyer program occurring in eleven regions across the province, aims to promote public access to justice.

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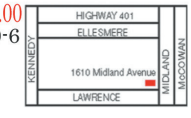


Beckett suspended six games
Boston Red Sox pitcher Josh Beckett has been suspended six games and fined by Major League Baseball for intentionally throwing near the head of Los Angeles Angels Bobby Abreu last week. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports

Zeke gets another coaching gig

Former Raptors VP and New York Knicks president and coach Isiah Thomas was hired by Florida International University yesterday to coach its men's basketball team. The Knicks finished 23-59 a year ago, prompting Thomas' firing. They never won a playoff game in his stay as president or coach, and his overall record in New York was 56-108.
METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: JOHN.CHICK@METRONEWS.CA

Burke wants to move on up

The Maple Leafs are going to aggressively pursue a top NHL entry draft spot, perhaps even the No. 1 pick owned by the New York Islanders, says GM Brian Burke.

Going into the draft lottery last night, Toronto was seventh in the selection order and could have moved up a maximum of four spots if it won the weighted draw.

The Islanders finished last in the league this season and had the best odds of landing the No. 1 pick.

That's exactly what happened when deputy commissioner Bill Daly announced the results of the draw, giving the Isles the top pick for the first time since 2000.

Toronto remained in seventh spot.

The draft is June 26-27 in Montreal.

Earlier in the day, Burke said he intends to be wheeling and dealing before the top teen talent is dispersed in Montreal with an eye on landing highly touted forward John Tavares.

"We'll immediately attempt to move up," Burke said during a morning news conference.

"No player is untradeable," said Burke.

"Wayne Gretzky got traded."

He wouldn't necessarily need the No. 1 spot to draft Tavares, he said.

"I'm not confident every team has John Tavares as No. 1," said Burke.

Burke said he and head coach Ron Wilson have progressed in their attempt to end the "culture of entitlement" some players feel when they play for the Leafs.

"Anyone who thinks he's on this roster because he has a contract is sadly mistaken," he said, adding a mention that the buyout option kicks in July 1.

Burke, as he has in the past, stressed that his only concern is to bring the Leafs a championship.

"I want to make the playoffs and have a parade here," he said. "I have no ego involved in this."

Earlier in the day, the Leafs announced the signing of forward Robert Slaney. THE CANADIAN PRESS

"No player is untradeable. Wayne Gretzky got traded ... I want to make the playoffs and have a parade here."
Maple Leafs GM Brian Burke

NHL draft lottery
Last night's results

1. New York Islanders
2. Tampa Bay Lightning
3. Colorado Avalanche
4. Atlanta Thrashers
5. Los Angeles Kings
6. Phoenix Coyotes
7. **Toronto Maple Leafs**
8. Dallas Stars
9. Ottawa Senators
10. Edmonton Oilers
11. Nashville Predators
12. Minnesota Wild
13. Buffalo Sabres
14. Florida Panthers

Blue Jays Twin vision

ANN HEISENFELT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Blue Jays right-fielder Alex Rios comes up short on a foul ball off the bat of Minnesota Twins Mike Redmond last night in Minneapolis. For a game recap, visit www.metronews.ca/sports.

STANLEY CUP PICKS

Adam Proteau
The Hockey News

San Jose over Philadelphia
Conn Smythe Winner: Dan Boyle

Brian Costello
The Hockey News

Detroit over Pittsburgh
Conn Smythe Winner: Pavel Datsyuk

John Chick
Metro sports editor

San Jose over New Jersey
Conn Smythe Winner: Joe Thornton

There's no shortage of playoff opinions

NHL Four different networks are gearing up to broadcast the NHL playoffs to the masses starting tonight and their assortment of experts are already busy making their opinions known.

The San Jose Sharks and Boston Bruins are popular picks to meet in the Stanley Cup final.

The Detroit Red Wings and Philadelphia Flyers also get some love.

No one is under more pressure this post-season than Sharks centre Joe Thornton, the experts say.

And no Canadian team is going to last longer than the Vancouver Canucks, who open up at home tonight against the streaking St. Louis Blues.

"I'm not saying I want them to," Hockey Night in Canada's Don Cherry said on a conference call Monday, "because I really like the way they play in Calgary. And I don't know whether (goalie Miikka) Kiprusoff is too tired or not, but the odds are Vancouver — I'll say they'll go the longest."

TSN has the only other series featuring a Canadian team — Calgary opens at the Chicago Blackhawks tomorrow — and the injury-riddled Flames also face an uphill climb to escape the first round.

"The only thing that makes me pause about Calgary is the injury situation going in," said Ed Olczyk of American broadcasters NBC and Versus.

"Having watched Chicago a fair bit now and having been at their game (Sunday), they've just got a lot of good stuff going on. It's going to be a very tough series for Calgary."

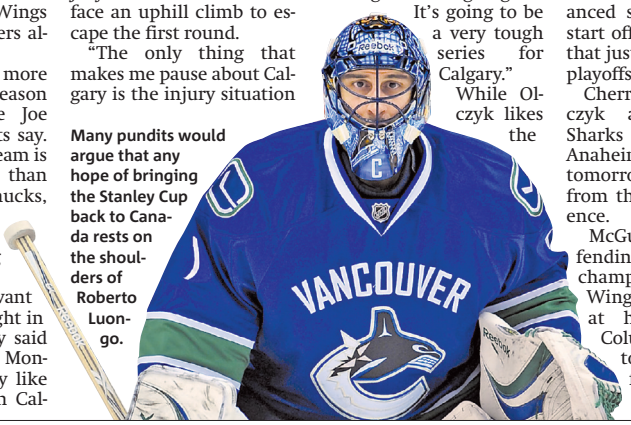
While Olczyk likes the Flyers to survive the East — they open at the Pittsburgh Penguins tonight — Cherry, Pierre McGuire of TSN and NBC, and Mike Milbury of CBC and NBC pick the Bruins to make it all the way to the final.

The Eastern Conference champions boast the stingiest goaltending tandem in the league, a balanced scoring attack and start off with a Habs team that just squeaked into the playoffs.

Cherry, Milbury and Olczyk are picking the Sharks — who host the Anaheim Ducks in Game 1 tomorrow — to emerge from the Western Conference.

McGuire expects the defending Stanley Cup champion Detroit Red Wings — who start play at home versus the Columbus Blue Jackets tomorrow — to play for the title again.

STANLEY CUP
2009 Playoffs



Many pundits would argue that any hope of bringing the Stanley Cup back to Canada rests on the shoulders of Roberto Luongo.

Jays place Litsch on 15-day DL

JAYS The Blue Jays placed starter Jesse Litsch on the 15-day disabled list yesterday with a right forearm strain and recalled left-hander Bill Murphy from triple-A Las Vegas. Litsch left Monday's 8-6 win over the Twins with tightness in the forearm after allowing seven hits and four runs over three innings. Reliever Brian Tallet will come out of the bullpen and start in Litsch's place Saturday versus Oakland. A team official said Litsch's injury didn't appear to be severe, although his absence will put further strain on an already thin rotation. Litsch was the only experienced arm behind Roy Halladay and was viewed as the team's No. 2 starter. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Litsch

For more sports coverage visit metronews.ca

Burnett flirts with no-no, Yanks win

A.J. Burnett took a no-hit bid into the seventh inning in his second start with the Yankees, and Nick Swisher homered for the third time in four games to help New York beat the Tampa Bay Rays 7-2 last night. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SCOREBOARD

NBA

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS
Atlanta 81 Miami 79
Boston at Philadelphia
Utah at L.A. Lakers

TONIGHT'S GAMES
TORONTO at Chicago
Atlanta at Memphis
Detroit at Miami
Charlotte at Orlando
Milwaukee at Indiana
Washington at Boston
New Jersey at New York
Houston at Dallas
Sacramento at Minnesota
New Orleans at San Antonio
Philadelphia at Cleveland
Denver at Portland
Golden State at Phoenix
Oklahoma City at L.A. Clippers

MLB

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS
Chicago White Sox at Detroit PPD
Seattle 3 L.A. Angels 2
Florida 5 Atlanta 1
N.Y. Yankees 7 Tampa Bay 2
Baltimore at Texas
Cleveland at Kansas City
Toronto at Minnesota
Boston at Oakland
Cincinnati at Milwaukee
St. Louis at Arizona

NHL

STANLEY CUP PLAYOFFS
TONIGHT'S GAMES
N.Y. Rangers at Washington
Philadelphia at Pittsburgh
Carolina at New Jersey
St. Louis at Vancouver

TOMORROW'S GAMES
Montreal at Boston
Columbus at Detroit
Calgary at Chicago
Anaheim at San Jose

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Jets to soar to T.O.

The J-E-T-S are coming to T.O.

The Buffalo Bills and New York Jets will face off at the Rogers Centre in prime time on Thursday, Dec. 3, the NFL and the Bills announced yesterday.

It will be the second regular-season NFL game held in Toronto, following the Miami Dolphins' 16-3 win over Bills last December.

More than 52,000 fans attended that game, the first regular-season contest ever held in Canada. Organizers are hoping to draw a bigger crowd for this year's AFC East showdown, lowering ticket prices by an average of 17 per cent earlier this week.

The game is part of a five-year plan to host five regular-season Bills games and three exhibition games at the Rogers Centre to capitalize on the team's Canadian fan base. Toronto won't host a pre-season game this year.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Champions League **Chelsea, Barcelona advance**

RYAN PIERSE/GETTY IMAGES

Didier Drogba of Chelsea celebrates yesterday after tying Liverpool 4-4 in a Champions League quarter-final second-leg game. Liverpool was ousted 7-5 on aggregate, while two-time champion Barcelona advanced past Bayern Munich after a 1-1 draw. Chelsea will meet Barca in the semis.

Oscar De La Hoya hangs up the gloves

BOXING Oscar De La Hoya is calling it quits in the ring.

Boxing's most popular fighter announced his decision yesterday across the street from Staples Center in Los Angeles, where a statue of him stands.

De La Hoya is retiring four months after he was thoroughly beaten by Manny Pacquiao in his fourth loss in his last seven fights.

It's been several years since De La Hoya beat a truly daunting opponent. He finishes with a record of 39-6 and 30 knockouts.

He told an outdoor audience that he's retiring because it's not fair to himself or fans to continue when he can't compete at the highest level anymore.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

De La Hoya wells up at his retirement yesterday.

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Metro Workology exclusive: Paws and Claws
Be sure to read Workology and Metronews.ca/work for our pet industry feature series Paws and Claws. Seen here is Heidi, submitted by a loyal Metro reader.

Workology

Coping with pet loss

The Canadian Centre for Pet Loss Bereavement (PetLossSupport.ca) is an online portal of available professional counsellors, articles, and support links for Canadians who are grieving the loss of their pet. It was founded by psychotherapist and "animal whisperer" Shiri Joshua following her own experience of pet loss. Joshua also founded the Shiri Joshua Centre for Human and Animal Healing (HumanAnimalHealing.com). METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

40 years of problem pups

Trainer says firm-but-fair approach makes for better dogs

Paws and **Claws**

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada

Training reckless dogs to be obedient sounds like a harsh job but it's a labour of love for champion dog trainer Wolfram Klose.

Nicknamed "Wolf" by his friends and family, the 68-year-older owner of Havelberg Dog Academy has trained dogs for Hollywood movies and CBC television productions and has won his share of dog training awards.

Born in communist East Germany, Klose, escaped across the border when he was 17 to find adventure in the West. He worked as a police officer for several years before coming to Canada with his wife in the 1960s.

A lifelong dog lover, Klose opened Havelberg Dog Academy in 1968 on an empty, treeless plot of land and building the academy from the ground up by himself. Today, the academy still sits on that same plot of land in Orono, Ont., and now includes a zoological park, a pet cemetery and a bed and breakfast. Klose still trains dogs in the original kennels he built more than 40 years ago and says the secret to treating disobedient dogs is to be firm but fair.

RAFAEL BRUSILOW/FOR METRO CANADA

Dog trainer Wolfram Klose and Pepper the dog at the Havelberg Dog Academy in Orono, Ont.

"Most dogs are spoiled because their owners let them get away with murder. You have to be fair to the dog but still control them. I treat every dog as if they're the only dog in the world," Klose said.

He says he's frustrated at people who use spiked collars on their dog and pull too hard on choke-chains because such methods are inhumane and counter-productive. He suggests kind contact is the best habit to develop when training a dog, as it teaches the animal to wait for an owner's permission before doing things.

"If you pull the dog and don't pet it, that's abuse. You have to treat the dog more personally. Once they trust you, you can control them and correct them," Klose said.

Klose's first job in Canada was as a machine operator because he couldn't speak any English. He quickly realized he could make more money training just two dogs at a time than he could working 40-hour weeks for a whole month doing machining, so he sold his house and devoted himself to training dogs.

"I was fanatical — that's all I did. I had no kids, so I spent all my time with the dogs," Klose said.

He says passion is key to maintaining a caring attitude when working with animals and it's something you can't just pick up by accident.

"That passion for animals, you're born with it. You have to have it — I don't think you can learn it," Klose said.

For more information, go to havelbergdogacademy.com.

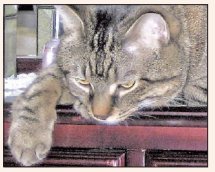
"Most dogs are spoiled because their owners let them get away with murder. You have to be fair to the dog but still control them."
Wolfram Klose

For more of the Paws and Claws exclusive series check Workology frequently or stop by:
metronews.ca/work

Metro readers'

Best friends

- Metro would like thank everyone who has sent in a picture of their pet, we'll try to publish as many as we can throughout the month of April.



Here's two-year-old Tooky-Maoo surveying the scene.

Lina here is a rescued six-year-old English Setter.

Roxy here is a year-old Rottweiler Shepherd mix.

Here's Stella at eight months old.

Here's Yogi the Bouvier after he got a hair cut.

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Inflation blamed for rising cost of McGill hospital project

Top officials with the McGill University Health Centre say industry-specific inflation alone is responsible for the $700-million increase in the price tag of the future university-affiliated hospital, not mismanagement, as was suggested by Quebec's auditor general. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Office romance a tricky biz

Employee's interest in a 'sexual escapade' cost him the case

WorkplaceLaw

For Stan van Woerkens, the Garden of Eden simply had too many forbidden fruits. Hired to manage at Marriott's Renaissance Vancouver Hotel, Woerkens' career was on the up and up. But life can be lonely at the top. When he confused a subordinate's flirtations with sexual advances, Woerkens' behaviour at the company's holiday party became more than a forbidden dalliance — it was the recipe for disaster.

As the most senior employee at the annual holiday party, Woerkens acted as the host and master of ceremonies. The evening began with a champagne reception and ended with an after-party at the hotel for a small group of staff. According to Woerkens, as the evening progressed, one of the female associates came on to him. She sat on his lap at the party and danced suggestively with him after dinner, inviting him to her room.

When the main party died down, a group of employees, including Woerkens and the associate, went up to one of the hotel's rooms for an after-party. Woerkens said that he may have inadvertently touched her when the two were standing alone in the bathroom. She remembered the event differently. According to her, Woerkens pushed her against a counter, kissed and then fondled her. The two left the party at separate times and Woerkens later called her room.

The evening ended uneventfully. It wasn't until later that the associate, believing she had been drugged and taken advantage of, filed a complaint against Woerkens with the hotel.

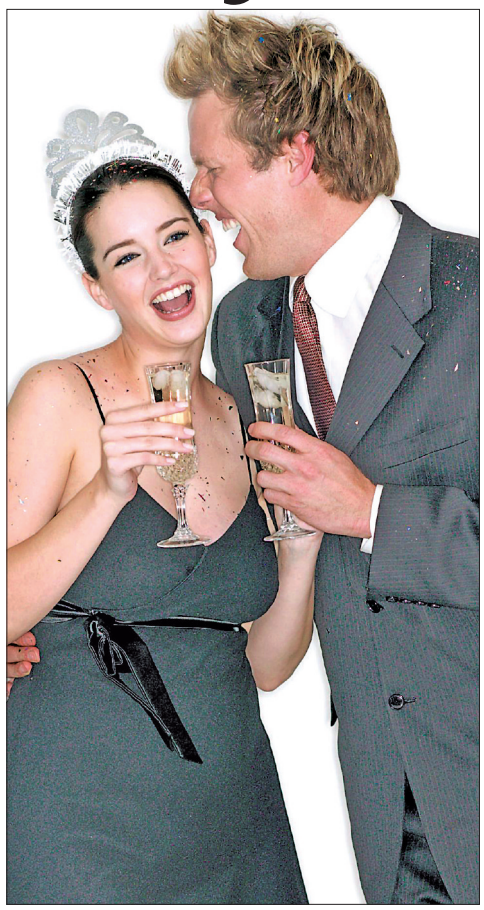
Without any advance notice of the complaint or an investigation, Woerkens was called into an office and accused of sexual assault. Pressing him for a confession, Marriott's senior investigator told Woerkens there was video evidence supporting the complaint. Woerkens denied he had done anything wrong and took his time preparing a written statement responding to the allegations but omitting any mention of having been alone at the after-party with the complainant or later calling her room.

"Employees cannot escape liability because the actions giving rise to a complaint have occurred after working hours or away from the workplace. Even a tenuous connection to work is enough."

Deferring to the investigator's recommendations, Marriott's general manager concluded that Woerkens had inappropriately touched the female employee and lied during the ensuing investigation. He then fired Woerkens for cause.

Arguing that he was a victim of a flawed investigation and denying that he had done anything wrong, Woerkens recently sued Marriott for wrongful dismissal.

The court concluded that Woerkens' recollection of the events did not carry the conviction of truth. Since he knew that the complainant was intoxicated, it was likely that Woerkens fondled her at the after-party and later called her room, interested in pursuing a "sexual escapade," according to Justice Paul Pearlman, who presided over the case.



When it's a manager and a subordinate, Canadian courts often apply a liberal definition to the meaning of harassment.

When the conduct complained of involves a manager and a subordinate employee, Canadian courts continue to apply a liberal definition to the meaning of harassment. In upholding Woerkens' dismissal, the court found that his behaviour at the party amounted to sexual harassment and that it was no defence for him to rely on a clearly flawed investigation into the events. Woerkens' actions, whether they were welcome or not, coupled with his dishonesty during the ensuing investigation, were enough to sway the court's view.

Employees cannot escape liability because the actions giving rise to a complaint have occurred after working hours or away from the workplace. Even a tenuous connection to work is enough for an employer to intervene.

Daniel A. Lublin is an employment lawyer focusing on the law of dismissal; dan@canadaemploymentlawyer.com.

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Established in June 2008, the Youth Apprenticeship Standards Council (YASC) came onto the scene to increase access to skilled trades for young people and those looking to the skilled trades as a second career in the trades, distribution or manufacturing. YASC is a non-profit organization established to provide access to skilled trades and safety training and to link potential employees with employers.

YASC is part of the industry's answer to making trades accessible. Through their efforts to promote lesser known trades such as Appliance Service Technician, Network Cabling and Lift Truck Mechanic, and well known trades like Electrical, Plumbing, and Heating & Air Conditioning, YASC is opening the door to more trades to more people than ever before. With industry partners that include the Electro-Federation of Canada's Installation, Maintenance and Repair division (IMR), Bell Technical Solutions and the CLAC; YASC is a strong supporter of the PAT Institute's new Appliance Service Technician program and the Network Cabling Specialist program. Both new programs provide new people with an opportunity to gain the needed hands-on skills, tools, safety training and industry connections to get a solid start in these lesser known trades.

Historically, apprenticeships were secured by obtaining employment with a company and by apprenticing with a journeyman. More then ever before employers are hiring people with strong foundational skills that can be obtained through a recognized pre-apprenticeship program through the PCC branch of MTCU.

The Industry Standard....

PAT was founded in 2005, because there was a desperate need for skilled people in the industry and no one was providing the solution for employers. As Rui Cunha, the facility's director of operations was quoted as saying in the industry's Network Cabling magazine (Jan/Feb 2008) "We don't function like a traditional school," he added, "We're more like the employer's Human Resource and Training Department." Cunha went on to say that employers who hire from PAT see the Institute as a partner that helps them grow their businesses with good people. PAT's approval as a YASC training facility is vital to the success of its graduates because it means that PAT's screening and training programs meet employer standards.

Industry associations have also become strong supporters. The PAT Institute is a proud member of the Ontario Electrical League (OEL) and has gained the League's full support and as quoted in their industry magazine, The Dialogue in August 2008 "stands behind the training and recruitment efforts of this Institute and encourages members to consider PAT Institute pre-apprentice graduates for employment."

More than 300 employers are already experiencing the many benefits of hiring PAT Institute graduates. The Institute and their partner YASC work with both union and non-union employers.

Unions like the Christian Labour Association of Canada (CLAC) recommend the PAT Institute as the preferred recruitment and training facility for their contractors and have been quoted (Dialogue – August 2008) as saying, "We have been impressed with the Institute's quality training and dedication to promoting the skilled trades....They have built an impressive training program where participants receive their training in a hands-on, practical manner. Their large training centre allows for participants to put into practice everything they have learned. Further, we appreciate the integrated role that safety plays in all aspects of their curriculum."

In Ontario, where thousands of jobs have been lost in the last year, many individuals are looking to retrain in the skilled trades and are looking to YASC for their link to both training (through PAT) and employers/contractors.

Dwight Matthews is an electrical graduate who shares his story. "I was working for a large national company with little room to grow. I decided it was time to look for a second career and after looking around at different career paths and training facilities; I picked the PAT Institute and their electrical program because of its recognition in the industry as the standard for the industry. After three months of intensive hands on training my company hired me the day I graduated. I had no need to look for a job because this is where employers in the industry come to hire. My entire class graduated on Friday and was working on Monday. That was two years ago! Today I have bought a house and I'm currently the union steward for my company."

Giving back to Industry - Open Houses, Scholarships and Working together

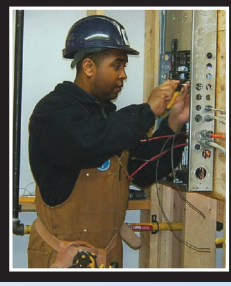
At a time when jobs are being lost and people are feeling displaced and without hope, industry leaders like YASC are bringing the skilled trades industry together - contractors, distributors, manufacturers and associations are working together to provide job opportunities to those transitioning from one lost career into one with direction and growth.

Members of YASC not only believe in the importance of being involved in their industry, but more importantly, in the need to give back to their industry and they are doing this in different ways. For those needing training, there are now scholarships available to offset the cost of tools and materials; for those with skills, there job opportunities with employer members looking to hire on skilled people.

YASC is offering individuals, such as those hard hit by industry lay-offs, an opportunity to start a career in the skilled trades. PAT's Rui Cunha has said "most people aren't aware of the number of opportunities that the trades offer. YASC has Open Houses where they can gather information. Not all skilled trades involve construction and they are great jobs that offer a stable career."

With an ever growing number of employers hiring through YASC, all students who meet the YASC standards are promoted by YASC to member employers. As well, YASC provides job links for experienced apprentices and licensed trades people.

Visit the website at www.youthac.ca or contact them at 416-636-8218 And book a seat for their next Open House!



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$38 million for UBC

The B.C. government announced yesterday it will commit $37.5 million towards the new $75 million Earth Systems Science Building at the University of British Columbia, which is expected to open in 2012. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Leadership key to staying ahead of the curve: Study

Employing good people is a company's best line of defence against the competition, a recent survey of chief financial officers (CFOs) suggests.

More than half (55 per cent) of executives interviewed said that having solid leadership and hiring outstanding talent are the best ways to protect against threats from rival firms. State-of-the-art technology is also viewed as a significant advantage, cited by 24 per cent of respondents.

The survey was developed by Robert Half Finance & Accounting, the world's first and largest specialized financial recruitment service. It was conducted by an independent research firm and is based on interviews with more than 1,400 CFOs.

CFOs were asked, "Which one of the following will best protect companies from competitive threats in the next three years?" The top three responses:

Strong company leadership: 28 per cent
A focus on hiring the best people: 27 per cent
Up-to-date technology: 24 per cent

In a recent study, solid leadership and outstanding talent topped ways to protect companies from outside firms.

"In any economy, an organization's most valuable asset is its people, but this is even more true in uncertain times when a company's survival may depend on strong leadership and maintaining high customer service levels," said Max Messmer, chairman and CEO of Robert Half International.

"Companies must be able to quickly shift gears to take advantage of new opportunities, which requires clear vision and capable staff."

Messmer noted, "With outstanding performers now in the job market, companies have access to professionals who would not have been available one year ago. Even though managers are closely watching budgets, it makes sense to hire people who can help the company enhance its depth of skills and expertise and grow now and in the future."

Keeping current with technology also remains critical for companies to maintain a competitive edge, according to Messmer. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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iMiEV going global

After months of speculation, Mitsubishi Motors has announced that its pure electric, four-passenger iMiEV will be sold globally, including Canada and the U.S, Canadian Driver reports. The iMiEV will be on Canadian roads as early as November 2009 as part of a pilot project in British Columbia, according to Mitsubishi. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: KUMAR SAHA, KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

Mazda's winning ways

Good-looking Mazda6 GT V6 has the soul of a sports car

JIM ROBINSON
for Metro Canada

The 2009 Mazda6 is bigger in all dimensions with a larger V6 engine, and ride and handling have been greatly improved.

Getting there, as they say, is half the fun.

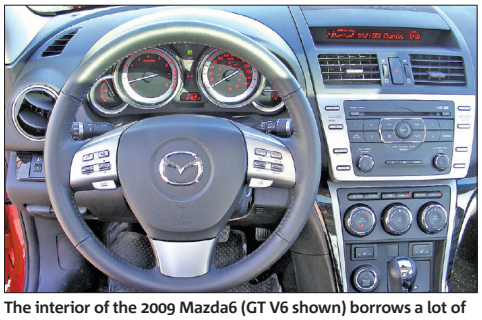
On a recent family excursion to the Algonquin Park area for a few days vacation, I booked a 2009 Mazda6 GT V6 because it was a double standout last year.

It won its category (Best New Family Car, $22,000-$30,000) at the annual Automotive Journalists Association of Canada (AJAC) Car of the Year awards. Then it almost took the overall COTY title losing by one, single point to the Hyundai Genesis.

The 2009 model is easily the best-looking Mazda6 yet.

From the front fenders back, you can see how the lines in some of Mazda's recent concepts were moulded into the overall structure. An example is a very subtle and elegant "S" curve that flows from the high point of the roof down and back to the tip of the rear deck.

But the most pronounced feature of the external styling is the way the front fenders flare out like wings, and along with the five-point grille, gives the car the look of a broad arrow. Starting with the RX-8 sportscar then the CX-7 CUV and more recently the 2010 Mazda3, this is now the signature styling cue for the entire model lineup.



The interior of the 2009 Mazda6 (GT V6 shown) borrows a lot of the flagship CX-9.

The 2009 Mazda6 is larger than the previous version in every dimension. Wheelbase is lengthened by 115 mm; overall length is greater by 195 mm, while overall width is increased by 60 mm.

Both front and rear occupants benefit from more headroom, shoulder room, and legroom. Cargo capacity has grown by 39 litres to 469 litres. That 10 per cent increase in cargo volume results in a very high trunk deck.

There is a drawback. In creating all that trunk room the high deck lid makes reversing problematic. Ergo, you will have to be very careful when backing up not to hit objects like posts. There is no parking assist audible warning available.

2009 Mazda6 GT V6

Type: Mid-size sedan
Price: GS I4, $22,695; GS V6, $27,695; GT I4, $27,695; GT V6, $33,495. GT V6 as tested, $35,460
Engine: 2.5-litre, DOHC inline four-cylinder (170 hp, 167 lf/ft) 3.7-litre DOHC V6 (272 hp, 269 lb/ft)

Highlights

- New model larger than previous incarnation
- Blind spot warning system

The steering wheel has a nice feel to it and the instruments, with amber and violet display hues, are easy on the eyes.

Tested here is the GT V6, and my wife, son and I each drove the car and found the power driver's seat could be adjusted for three very different body shapes. The best past is, with three memory settings, all of us could be happy.

One of Mazda's prime objectives was to include "Zoom, Zoom" in the ride and handling. In other words, the 2009 Mazda6 had to have the "soul of a sports car."

What stuck out was the small turning circle, making steering and parking much easier than a lot of other front-drivers.

We all commented on the big brakes that are very solid in actuation that leads to a feel of confidence behind the wheel.

My tester was equipped with the blind spot system that lit up an icon in either mirror each time a car came into the blind spot zone.

It also lets out an audible beep if you move into another lane and a car is in the blind spot.

Insight pricing announced

HYBRID The guessing games are finally over.

Honda has announced the pricing for the all-new 2010 Honda Insight hybrid hatchback, which goes on sale on Earth Day, April 22.

The Insight LX has been tagged at $23,900, making it one of the cheapest big-name hybrids on the market.

The distinctively styled, five-passenger, five-door dedicated vehicle is powered by an Integrated Motor Assist system comprised of a 1.3-litre i-VTEC(R) gasoline engine and a 10-kilowatt electric motor that together contribute to a Transport Canada fuel economy rating of 4.8 L/100 km (city) and 4.5 L/100 km (highway).

The Insight also features the Ecological Drive Assist System, an innovation that can further enhance efficient vehicle operation while providing feedback related to individual driving styles.

"Honda Insight is designed to bring hybrid technology within closer reach for many new car buyers in Canada with its affordable pricing," said Jerry Chenkin, executive vice president of Honda Canada Inc.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

The 2010 Honda Insight

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Keep on truckin'

2009 Silverado Hybrid paints the pickup green

JIM ROBINSON
for Metro Canada

The 2009 Chevrolet Silverado Hybrid full-size SUV saves up to 25 per cent on fuel consumption by running on battery power, gasoline engine or a combination of both.

2009 Chevy Silverado 2-Mode Hybrid

Type: Full-size SUV
Price: Base, $50,875. As tested, $52,445 including $1,300 shipping fee
Engine: 6.0-litre, DOHC V8/electric motor (332 hp, 367 lb/ft)

Highlights

- Affordable hybrid system for a pickup
- Many standard features

There will always be a sunrise.

There will always be an England.

And there will always be pickup trucks.

Sure, truck sales are off but an interesting thing is happening south of the border, and to a lesser extent here. Pickup truck sales (but not SUVs) are on the upswing.

As soon as the price of fuel started to drop, Americans began buying pickups again. So it turns out it's the cost of fuel, not vehicle price, that's a determining factor in truck purchasing.

And, frankly, when Prime Minister Stephen Harper's federal infrastructure money starts flowing, people won't be hauling wallboard and cement mixers to the job site in Honda Civics. They're going to need a pickup.

However, there is still the uncertain cost of fuel. So the question is whether or not you can have your pickup cake and eat it too.

General Motors is alone in offered a full-size hybrid pickup that can tow up to 6,100 lb and get up to 9L/100 km on the highway. I know because I did it.

GM's green trucks are based on the 2-Mode Hybrid System currently found in the GMC Yukon and Sierra, Chevrolet Tahoe and Silverado (tested here) and Cadillac Escalade.

This is a "full" hybrid system, in that it can operate on electric power, gasoline power or a combination of both for a claimed saving of up to 25 per cent.

While the GM Hybrid system is one of several affordable hybrid technologies, it is the most adaptable for large vehicles. In fact the 2-Mode hybrid system was adapted and refined from the hybrid technology GM has used in city buses since 2003. It is now the first hybrid system used in a full-size SUV.

The Hybrid's drivetrain is the sum of three main components, each of which works together to provide seamless, economical and comfortable operation that goes virtually unnoticed by the driver and passengers. The components are an Electrically Variable Transmission (EVT), an Energy Storage System (ESS) and the Vortec 6.0-litre Gen IV V8 engine with Active Fuel Management (AFM). The AFM allows it to run on only four cylinders for light-energy demands.

Big and brawny, but with a heart of green, the Silverado Hybrid does show that you can still get the job done while making this a better world.

At all times, the 2-Mode Hybrid system collects torque-based data, deciphers it, and then determines the most fuel-efficient means of propelling the vehicle.

This results in a number of ways to save fuel such as: engine off at idle; electric-only propulsion to 48 km/h in light load conditions; electric boosting during acceleration blends with engine power to save fuel; cutting off fuel to the engine during vehicle deceleration; active fuel management cylinder deactivation technology; and regenerative braking and engine speed and load control.

My tester was what you would call an Extended Cab "working truck" with cloth interiors and hard plastic trim.

The front seat is a 40/20/40 split bench with another slightly higher bench in the back in "stadium" style. With a few things like standard climate control, cruise control and Bluetooth connectivity, my tester was the base unit with a sticker price of $50,875.

The Silverado Hybrid has a fuel rating of 10.5L/100 km (27 mpg) city and 9.8L/100 km (29 mpg) highway.

Big and brawny, but with a heart of green, the Silverado Hybrid does show that you can still get the job done while making this a better world.

Is GM-Segway's P.U.M.A. leap into future?

AutoPilot

Michael Goetz

metronews.ca/autopilot

I think we've moved beyond the long car hood as phallic symbol, but still ... If this is what future male teenagers might have to be cruising in, in their valiant but so often futile attempt to pick up girls ... Then I feel for you, little brothers.

I mean take a look at this thing — it looks like a two-seat, two-wheeled horse buggy, without the horse.

Known as Project P.U.M.A. (Personal Urban Mobility and Accessibility), this odd vehicle was unveiled in New York last week, by an equally odd pairing — General Motors and Segway.

GM you know as the automaker set for some serious restructuring in the near future, and Segway you know as the company that pioneered the stand-up Segway, used extensively by crack security personnel — like Paul Blart: Mall Cop.

Like that stand-up Segway, the sit-down P.U.M.A. uses a gyroscope, a computer, and an array of sensors and accelerometers, to determine how to power each wheel, to keep everything on the level. Yes, you need to place your complete trust in a computer, to keep your butt off the pavement, but that's not even one of the major discussion points raised by this prototype: why is GM involved?

As discussed in a previous column, this initiative is consistent with GM's vision of future personal transportation: Small, low-speed vehicles, electrically driven, connected to each other so everyone and everything is safe. Connectivity is also viewed as a critical element in alleviating congestion.

Will this become the next Model T? Who knows at this point, but the current Segway models, which have been around since 2004, might offer a clue.

GETTY IMAGES

An electric two-seat prototype vehicle developed by General Motors and Segway as part of Project P.U.M.A.

While Segways didn't revolutionize the world, as its makers once believed they would, they didn't go away either. They found successful niches in security, policing, corporate, personal disability and tourism environments.

"The P.U.M.A. will eventually find its niches too," said Jason Rizzuti of Segway of Ontario. He makes a good point: Our future transportation model may well be a fabric made of niche-like strands.

But is this thing even remotely legal? At this point the answer to that would be an emphatic "no."

Carol Valianti, a vice-president with Segway Inc., told me that P.U.M.A. could be used on certain streets right now, with relatively little change to existing legislation — particularly on roads already restricted to speeds of 35 mph (56 km/h) or less.

Valianti noted, however, that the ideal scenario for P.U.M.A. would be a dedicated lane, something that would definitely require new legislation.

Part of the problem with getting things moving, is that there are a lot of local, state, provincial, and federal jurisdictions that have a say in where these, and other low-speed vehicles, can be used.

In the meantime, GM and Segway have lots of work to do, namely building a second-generation prototype with "full body design" by the spring of 2010, and then on to a full-blown production model.

In spite of my aesthetic reservations, I sincerely wish them good luck.

Michael Goetz has been writing about cars and editing automotive publications for more than 20 years. He lives in Toronto with his family and a neglected 1967 Jaguar E-type.

Segway online

- Check out segwaycanada.ca for the list of Canadian dealers and their Segway tour programs, and for links to cities and attractions around the world, which can be "toured" with a Segway.

Headrests ignored, report says

SAFETY While buckling seatbelts is second nature when getting into a car—how many of us think to adjust the headrest?

Reports show that headrests are one of the most overlooked safety features in motor vehicles today and many don't realize the important role headrests play in preventing neck, brain and spinal cord related injuries. "Headrests are designed to work alongside the seatbelt so that when an accident occurs it prevents the head from twisting backwards, which subsequently results in whiplash," explains Stefanie Hay, an insurance and claims expert at Aviva Canada. "Drivers can sustain an injury from an incorrectly adjusted headrest even at speeds as low as 15 kilometres per hour — the same speed as the average bicycle."

According to an Insurance Bureau of Canada study only 14 per cent of drivers on the road have their headrest in the proper position. NEWS CANADA

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Drive safely this spring

Follow these road rules to stay out of harm's way

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
for Metro Canada

Make sure you're in top shape for a springtime drive — avoid heavy meals before long trips to stay alert.

Spring brings with it plenty of warm weather, outdoor activities and visiting. Days are longer, nights are warmer, and a hot summer is right around the corner.

Although spring can be a great season for driving, it can also be one of the most dangerous. Awakening wildlife may wander onto public roadways at night, and excited kids may do the same during the day. Heavy rain and temperature fluctuations typical of the season can make driving treacherous, too. The list goes on.

So, do you want to make sure you're properly set up for safe springtime travels? Listed below are some pointers to make sure your family trips in the coming weeks are all safe ones.

Lights

Check for and replace burned-out bulbs on your car or truck as needed. It's important to make sure headlights are aimed properly too, for maximum nighttime illumination. Check your owner's manual for information on how to do this yourself, or head to your favourite mechanic for assistance.

Windshield and wipers

If you're using rubber-wrapped winter-blades on your car, replace them with summer blades. Winter blades are bulky and not aerodynamic — they tend to lift away from your windshield at higher speeds. This reduces their effectiveness and poses a safety concern. A more aerodynamic summer wiper blade generally does a better job in warmer weather.

Applying RainX or a similar water-repellant to windows can make a huge difference in visibility during rainy conditions, too. Applied properly, it causes water to bead quickly and helps keep the windshield clean. You'll want to fill up with a summertime washer fluid as well.

Motoring through April showers

Spring often brings heavy rainfall, which can pose a driving challenge. Remember that wet roads are the most slippery when it first starts to rain, as oil on the road's surface begins to mix with water.

Leave lots of room. You'll need at least twice as much of it to stop if the roads are wet.

No matter how strong the urge is to send a tidal wave sloshing over innocent pedestrians, intentionally driving into a large puddle is never a good idea. There may be something hidden under the surface, and a large amount of water can temporarily reduce the effectiveness of your brakes, too.

Be prepared

It's not a bad idea to keep a survival kit onboard your ride, 365 days a year. In the case of a breakdown away from home, you may wish to have blankets, a supply of non-perishable food, candles, matches, cash and even a reflective vest.

Make sure you're in top shape for a drive, too. Consider investing in some driving glasses to cut back on glare and eye fatigue, and avoid heavy meals before longer trips. Driving when you aren't alert just isn't worth the risk.

Across Rockies on a tank of gas

ANDREA WOO
for Metro Canada

JENNIFER GAUTHIER/FOR METRO CANADA

(Left to right) Mike Velemirovich, Jim Tompkins, James Tansey and Jerry Sturko in Vancouver's Stanley Park last week. The group of four drove from Calgary to Vancouver on one tank of gas, and in time to catch the night's Calgary Flames-Vancouver Canucks game.

Sure, it was an effective way to showcase a fuel-efficient vehicle and an eco-friendly blend of gas, but one big reason why four men drove two cars from Calgary to Vancouver on single tanks of gas was simply to stroke the male ego.

Last year, Halifax Volkswagen dealer Mike Velemirovich drove a Volkswagen TDI more than 1,100 kilometres from Halifax to Montreal to see his favourite hockey team play, the Canadiens.

This year, Calgary Volkswagen dealer Jerry Sturko challenged him to a repeat, but this time from Calgary to Vancouver to catch a Flames-Canucks game.

"I said to him, 'Well, (driving from Halifax to Montreal) is not bad, I guess, but the real test would be to take these TDIs over the Rocky Mountains (from Calgary) to Vancouver,'" said Sturko.

"It kind of grew out of guys being guys, basically, into the idea of doing this on a scale to really test and showcase the vehicles," said James Tansey, one of the four drivers and president of Offsetters, a Vancouver-based company that works to reduce climate impact.

Along with Vancouver Volkswagen dealer Jim Tompkins, a consultant and a videographer, the group — dressed in hockey and referee jerseys — met in Calgary and piled into two Volkswagen TDIs at 4:30 a.m. on April 7.

Running on a blend of diesel and five per cent biodiesel, the two cars arrived in Vancouver 15 hours later — just in time to see the Canucks defeat the Flames.

"We (used) less than five litres per 100 kilometres, which is about double the fuel efficiency of the average North American fleet," said Tansey, who also emphasized the importance of driving intelligently by not accelerating and breaking hard, for example.

The journey, which included a few spontaneous stops, totalled 1,075 kilometres. One of the cars was down to just one and a half litres of fuel upon arriving in Vancouver.

What would they have done if they didn't make it?

"Well, we would have been stuck at the side of the road and we would have been testing Volkswagen's emergency support service," said Tansey with a laugh.

Golf, FCX Clarity win global honours

AWARD The all-new Volkswagen Golf edged out the Toyota iQ and the Ford Fiesta to bag the 2009 World Car of the Year title at the New York International Auto Show last week.

The sixth generation Golf made its first appearance at the Paris Motor Show last fall, and was unveiled in North America at the Canadian International Auto Show in Toronto this February.

The new Golf will be coming to Canada this fall as a 2010 model.

Honda's FCX Clarity took home the eco-friendly honours in New York as it was named the 2009 World Green Car.

The FCX Clarity, a sleekly styled hydrogen fuel cell-powered sedan currently available on a limited lease-basis, is powered by an electric motor that runs on electricity generated by an on-board fuel cell stack.

The vehicle's only emission is water, and its fuel efficiency is up to three times that of a modern gasoline-powered automobile and two times that of a gasoline-powered hybrid vehicle.

The World Green Car awards were inaugurated in 2003, and officially launched in January 2004, to reflect the reality of the global marketplace, as well as to recognize and reward automotive excellence on an international scale.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Actress Jamie Lee Curtis poses with Honda's FCX Clarity.

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#Limited time lease offers based on new 2009 Honda models. Lease examples based on 2009 Civic DX Sedan, model FA1529EX / 2009 CR-V LX 2WD, model RE3839E / 2009 Accord LX Sedan, model CP2539E available through Honda Financial Services on approved credit. £1.9% / 2.9% / 2.9% lease APR for 48 / 48 / 48 months. Monthly payment is $178 / $278 / $278 with $2,979.48 / $6,092.49 / $4,850.18 down payment or equivalent trade. $1,310 / $1,560 / $1,410 freight and PDI, first monthly payment and $0 / $0 / $0 security deposit due at lease inception. Total lease obligation is $13,021.53 / $21,963.23 / $20,559.42. Taxes, license, insurance and registration are extra. 96,000 / 96,000 / 96,000 kilometre allowance; charge of $0.12/km for excess kilometres. Retailer may lease for less. Retailer order / trade may be necessary. ‡Limited time financing offers based on new 2009 Honda models. Finance example based on new 2009 Civic Sedan DX, model FA1529EX available through Honda Financial Services on approved credit. ‡MSRP is $16,990 plus $1,310 freight and PDI, financed at 0.9% APR equals $312.03 per month for 60 months. Cost of borrowing is $421.70 for a total obligation of $18,721.70. Retailer may sell for less. Retailer order / trade may be necessary. MSRP of 2009 Civic EX-L Sedan, model FA1509JNX / 2009 Accord EX-L V6 Sedan, model CP3689JN shown is $23,680 / $25,190 / $35,390. ¥Cash purchase incentive offers will vary from model to model. $1,500 cash purchase incentive available on new 2009 Accord Coupe and 2009 Accord Sedan models, excluding 2009 Accord EX Coupe MT, model CS1173J and 2009 Accord LX Sedan MT, model CP2539E. $3,000 cash purchase incentive available on new 2009 Accord Coupe V6 and 2009 Accord Sedan V6 models. #/£/†/¥Offers valid from April 1st, 2009 through April 30th, 2009 at participating Honda retailers. Offers subject to change or cancellation without notice. See your Honda retailer for full details. NHL and the NHL Shield are registered trademarks of the National Hockey League. ©NHL 2008. All rights reserved.

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Travel

Starving artist?

The Algonquin Hotel — where famous scribes at the Round Table were inspired to create the New Yorker and the Oak Room cabaret acts that launched careers (including Harry Connick Jr. and Diana Krall) — is offering an economically friendly package for struggling authors and actors alike. METRO NEWS SERVICES

A deal for you

The Algonquin has introduced the Writers Block package for writers suffering from "block," whether creative or financial. For more info or to book, call 866-406-5341.

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Lazing on Lisbon beaches

European capital just minutes away from sand, sun and some of the hottest bars

CÉLIA PEDROSO
Metro World News

Lisbon is one of the few European capitals that can boast excellent beaches only a 15-minute car ride away. Golden beaches stretch out either side of the River Tagus, the river that flows by Portugal's capital city before joining the sea.

During the day locals come to sunbathe in the dunes, stroll on the beach and lunch al fresco, and by night they let their hair down in the buzzing bars and discos. Now that smoking has been banned in restaurants and bars, Lisbon's party people have even more reason to spend their summer in these open-air playgrounds, with the sea as their backdrop. Here's our guide to the hottest beach bars on the Lisbon coast.

ON THE SOUTH BANK: COSTA DA CAPARICA

Delmare Café: Surf and fun

For the past three years Delmare Café has been one of the most popular places to hang out on the Costa da Caparica. During the day this restaurant and bar is a welcoming place for bathers and surfers from the café's surf school looking for a refreshing fruit juice or lunch of salad or fresh, grilled fish. The party moves to the beach in the evening, with DJs and live music late into the night. Fridays and Saturdays are particularly crowded, with an influx of younger customers. (Praia Cabana do Pescador, Costa da Caparica, delmare-cafe.com)

For three years Delmare Café has been one of the most popular places on the Costa da Caparica.

Borda D'Água: Juices, milkshakes and loungers

This is one of the hottest destinations on the Costa da Caparica — especially with the Lisbon residents who endure long lines of traffic to get there. Have a sandwich or salad for lunch on the terrace, or move onto their part of the beach where you can relax on a lounger with a caipirinha, morangosca, sangria, natural juices or milkshakes in the shade of a straw umbrella. Borda d'Água becomes especially charming in the early evening, when you can dine on fresh grilled fish as you watch the dazzling sun set into the sea. Enjoy the cool tunes and a drink while you're cradled by the warm breeze. (Praia Morena — Costa da Caparica, bordadagua.com.pt)

ON THE NORTH BANK: CASCAIS

Bar do Guincho: Windsurf and sangria

Open all year long, the Bar do Guincho is a Cascais hotspot in winter and summer. Guincho beach is a "sanctuary" for windsurf and surf lovers, with refreshing but angry waves from March to October, and the best conditions for windsurfing in July and August. Bar do Guincho is a haven for surfers with a shop, lockers and a large terrace for drinks, dinner and parties with DJs and live music. Sandwiches and toasts are a must, as are the salads and shellfish dishes. Try the house cocktail "Bar do Guincho," with Baileys and Coconut Shake, the caipirinhas and the white and the green wines. (Guincho-Cascais, bardoguincho.pt)

Bafureira: Sushi and caipirinhas

This bar-restaurant on Bafureira beach, S. Pedro do Estoril is famous for its caipirinhas, morangostas and mojitos. You can also enjoy a late dinner of delicious tapas and grilled fish and shellfish dishes or Japanese food at Sushinalinha, as their kitchens are open until 2 a.m.

A fabulous setting for a glass of local wine in the late afternoon with a view over Cascais Bay, the Bafureira has terraces on two floors with wooden chairs and tables, and chaise-longues with extra-comfortable ergonomic mattresses. It is a good spot for thirtysomethings and is easy to get by train, from Lisbon. (Praia da Bafureira, S.Pedro do Estoril. bafureira.net)

Bar do Guincho, open all year long, is a Cascais hotspot in winter and summer. LEFT: This bar-restaurant on Bafureira beach, S. Pedro do Estoril, is famous for its late-night dinners of delicious tapas and grilled fish — the kitchen's open until 2 a.m.

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Festival of the arts
Charleston, S.C., is getting ready for its annual Spoleto Festival USA, May 22-June 7, an internationally known arts festival. Details and tickets at spoletousa.org. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Montreal ready for beer

'Little Belgium' to host one of largest beer festivals in North America

For the thirsty traveller with a hankering for hops and a soft spot for the little guy, there may be no better place to visit than Montreal.

Brew pubs and microbreweries abound and most are within stumbling distance of major hotels, bed and breakfasts and hostels. The city is also home to one of the biggest beer festivals in North America. The June 3-7 Mondial de la biere will showcase some 300 different brands of beer made by upwards of 100 brew pubs as well as large and small-scale breweries — the majority from Quebec.

Festival spokeswoman Marie-Josee Lefebvre said there are more than 70 brew pubs and microbreweries in the province with three or four new ones opening every year.

"They call us little Belgium because of the growing (number) of microbreweries," she said.

The popular festival, which will mark its 16th year, is free and visitors need only purchase beer tickets at a buck apiece to begin sampling. Lineups, however, could be long, especially on weekends, and a four-ounce sampler could cost up to five tickets.

Lefebvre said the festival, which last year attracted some 80,000 people, is becoming increasingly popular among tourists.

"We have a lot of people coming up from the U.S. and Europe," she said.

"I receive many emails during the year from people who say, 'I want to plan my vacation in Montreal and I want to attend the Mondial de la biere.'"

THE CANADIAN PRESS

RYAN REMIORZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Matthieu Murray and Melissa Gaudet sample some of the beers at the Brutopia brew pub in Montreal. For the thirsty traveller with a hankering for hops and a soft soft spot for the little guy, there may be no better place to visit than Montreal.

A quiet drink

- For those seeking a more low-key brew experience any time of the year, Montreal also has more than a dozen pubs featuring a variety of home brews.

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CHICKEN

Spas: Health before beauty

Increasingly stressful lives fuelling the spa industry's focus on overall wellness

ANNE DIMON
for Metro Canada

Don't even bother to use the words "luxury" and "pampering" around spas these days. The new mantra is "health and wellness."

At the Leading Spas of Canada Conference held earlier this month in Toronto, Susie Ellis, president of Spa Finder Inc, confirmed it — increasing stress is one of the macro trends fuelling the spa industry.

With health and wellness at the forefront, it makes good sense that an increasing number of mainstream spas are offering not-so-mainstream therapies mixed in with massages, facials and mani/pedis. Here's a sampling of what you'll find at four Canadian spas:

EYE SPY

Along with reflexology, Reiki, Thai stem massage, acupuncture and an ion cleanse, the Wind-in-the-Willows Spa at the Wig-a-Mog Inn in Haliburton, Ont., is one of a very few Canadian spas to offer iridology as a treatment. Dating back to the early 1800s, the practice of iridology is based on the belief that the iris can be scientifically read to "reflect" both the health and inherent weaknesses of the various parts, organs and systems of the body. It's an easy painless diagnostic session that feels more like an eye exam than a spa treatment, and it's a perfect example of how such wellness tools are moving into the spa environment; haliburton-spa.com.

GOOD VIBRATIONS

At Holtz Spa, in downtown Ottawa, the newest offering is an 80-minute treatment called Spirit of the Forest — A Vibrational Healing Experience. It includes a one-on-one health assessment, a small drink of a selected tree essence dissolved in water (it tastes like a very mild, floral-flavoured tea), a full brushing of the skin, a light massage with oils combined with essence of trees, and therapist-guided energy work to help with the release of whatever negative energies are blocking or resisting the healing process. You can also expect the treatment to trigger a little emotional detox. While vibrational healing may seem a little out there, it is scientifically based, linked to homeopathy and has been used in healing practices by various cultures for centuries; holtzspa.com.

DOSHA DRIVEN

At Vida Spa at the Fairmont Chateau Whistler the signature Ayurvedic Swedana begins with a personal dosha analysis — using the three Ayurvedic principles known as Vata, Pitta or Kapha to determine your mind-body state — so the treatment can be customized. There's a massage with selected Ayurvedic oils, then a system cleansing (with the dosha-driven appropriate herbs) in a cedar steam cabinet.

Cocooned in the steam cabinet, the heat can get rather intense, but the therapist remains with you to apply cold cloths to the forehead and offer sips of water to help keep the body hydrated. Once out of the cabinet, the body is sprinkled with flour — barley, corn or chickpea — to soak up the oils, sweat and toxins. A dry brushing and a shower follows. The 5,000-year-old lifestyle science of Ayurveda is all about balancing the systems of the body for maximum health; vidawellness.com.

LIMBER LEGS

At Amerispa in the Chateau Bonne Entente (a short drive from Old Quebec City), you'll find a Pressotherapy Room where clients relax in lounge chairs with legs slightly elevated. A therapist helps you slip into long, white "socks," then guides you into thigh-high, fisherman-like boots (but with the toes cut off.) Lights are dimmed, music plays softly and you lay wrapped in a cozy blanket as the computer-controlled Pressotherapy system goes to work. The treatment is good for blood circulation, the lymph system, muscle aches, tension pains in the legs and a condition known as "heavy legs."

VIDA SPA

The Swedana cedar steam cabinet at Vida Spa, Fairmont Chateau Whistler.

The new focus of spas is health, wellness and de-stressing.

For more

- Anne Dimon is a spa journalist and publisher/editor at traveltowellness.com.

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India's new river frontier

The email from an old friend who runs a white water rafting company was too enticing to resist: We're running a new river in India's remote east, he said. Join us.

It sounded like a rush. It turned out to be much more. In six days, we covered 116 kilometres of the Kameng River and shot some 100 rapids.

We plunged through roiling cauldrons of white-water that lifted the adrenaline level to truly yee-ha moments. And some took more than one unwilling swim in the chilly water.

The Kameng sweeps through the Valley of the Hornbills in pristine rain forest. Elsewhere it passes below tiny bamboo villages of the Nishi tribe, whose men hunt the magnificent birds for the colourful bills that adorn their headgear and who carry machetes in monkey-fur scabbards. We saw nature as it was meant to be — raw and lush. But we also witnessed its fragility: A simple farmer burns away an entire mountainside to work a small patch of land; bulldozers send rockslides tumbling down mountain slopes as they carve out a road; an energy-hungry nation begins work to dam yet another free-flowing river.

Whitewater rafting is a popular adventure sport in India. About 20 rivers spilling from the Himalayas toward the Indian plain are commercially rafted, with trips ranging from a few hours to two weeks. Some 30,000 people a year make the short but thrilling run on the Ganges above the Hindu holy town of Rishikesh, just a few hours drive from New Delhi.

The Kameng River is in the state of Arunachal Pradesh on India's north-eastern frontier, more than 1,600 kilometres from the capital. The state was a battleground in the 1962 Indo-China war and its ownership still is disputed. India kept it off-limits to foreigners until recently and has done little for its development. Even Indians need a permit to enter.

Our expedition was only the third time rafts and kayaks have been down the Kameng. Six professionals explored it in late 2007. A larger group of international adventurers ran it in March 2008.

ARTHUR MAX/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
A raft carrying food and supplies for a white water expedition shoots a rapid on the Kameng River, in the remote eastern Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh.

Anvesh Singh Thapa of the startup company Expeditions India, who was on both those trips, teamed up with Yousuf Zaheer of Himalayan River Runners for the first commercial run. Yousuf offered it to old friends and clients.

"This river has everything," Anvesh told us — natural beauty, tribal culture, and abundant rapids, many of them Class IV-plus (Class V being the highest). He rated it among his top three favourites in India and said his international colleagues ranked it among Asia's top 10.

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A private romance

Cayo Espanto (aprivateisland.com), the ultra all-inclusive private island resort off the east coast of Belize, has announced a new package for the summer. For stays from June 1 to Aug. 31, Cayo Espanto is offering the seven-night Ultimate Romance Package for $7,995 per couple. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Feats for the fierce and fearless

These adventures are guaranteed to test your limits ... and your bladder control

If you're an adrenaline junkie looking for heart-stopping, jaw-dropping thrills and spills, check out these daring activities offered around the world:

Zambezi Swing

The Zambezi Swing, in the quaint town of Livingstone, Zambia, offers up an extreme activity similar to bungee jumping. Adventurers are outfitted in gear, secured to a wire and led to a platform from which they free fall 50 metres — and then finish with a pendulum swing at 120 kilometres per hour across the Batoka Gorge.

Zambia is one of the only places in the world that offers a gorge swing experience. It's perfect for adventure seekers keen on testing their nerves and bladder control. The full day program is the best value and includes lunch, beverages, a Zambian visa and transfers. You can swing as many times as you like (on average of three to five jumps) and, at no additional charge, you can try abseiling, high-wiring and rap jumping. Visit thezambeziswing.com.

Mono-bob

At the ski resort of La Plagne, located opposite the Mont-Blanc and Beaufortain ranges in France, visitors can experience the mono-bob, a single-seater, self-steering bobsled. This "sports car of the ice" can reach up to speeds over 90 kilometres per hour, weaving downhill along an outdoor track with sharp turns. Visit la-plagne.com for more information.

JULIA DIMON/FOR METRO CANADA

Julia Dimon preparing to jump off the Macau Tower.

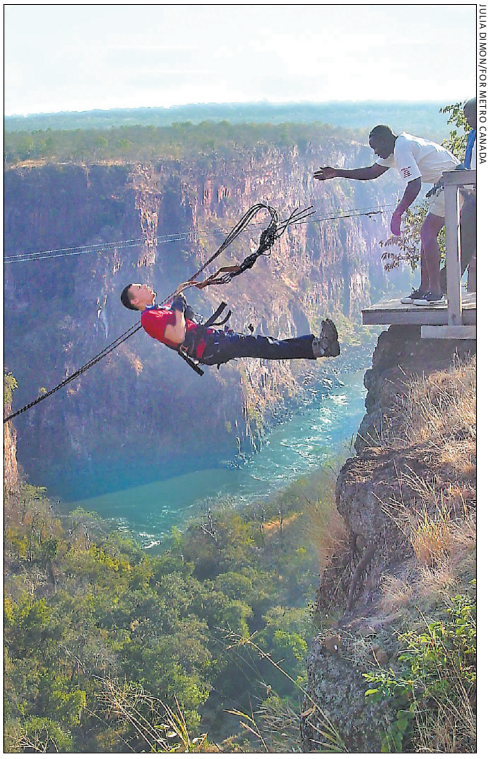
Zero Gravity

Incredible Adventures, a company offering once-in-a-lifetime specialized tours, offers wannabe astronauts the chance to experience the sensation of space travel. Just head to the tour's home base at Florida's Kennedy Space Center, hop aboard a NASA-approved Boeing 727 and enjoy the feeling of weightlessness as the pilots go through a series of manoeuvres that counter the forces of gravity. You'll flip and float through the cabin, just like the real deal. The two hour program is $5,197 US per person. Check out incredible-adventures.com.

Macau Tower jump

Those who are brave enough to take on the world's highest bungee jump should head to Macau, a casino-clad city just a short trip from Hong Kong.

From the 61st floor of the Macau Tower platform, jumpers will plummet 233 metres towards the earth at 200 kilometres per hour in a wicked, gut-wrenching free fall. This operation is owned by A.J. Hackett, dubbed the "father of bungee jumping," who manages adrenaline-based activities all over the world. But it's the height and the views that make this particular location special. While you're preparing for one of the most terrifying drops imaginable, try and remember to check out the cityscape with its lotus-shaped casinos and massive bridges extending over a glistening river. See macauworld.com.


JULIA DIMON/FOR METRO CANADA

Jumping off of the Zambezi Swing in Livingstone, Zambia.

Zorbing

Rotorua, the adventure capital of New Zealand's North Island, is a dream for adventure seekers. Locally run companies offer bungee jumping, skydiving, abseiling, mountain biking and a unique phenomenon called Zorbing. Originating in New Zealand in the 1990s, Zorbing has people strapped into enormous clear plastic balls, rolling down a grass-covered slope at speeds of up to 30 kilometres per hour. Throw a few buckets of water inside the hamster-like ball and you have what is known as liquid Zorbing. For around $50, you can tumble downhill and understand what it must feel like to be a loose sock trapped in a washing machine. See zorb.co.nz.

Julia Dimon is co-host of Word Travels, airing on OLN; juliadimon.com.

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All that jazz
The Montreal Jazz Festival, July 1-12, celebrates its 30th birthday this year, but the event includes a lot more than just jazz. Visit montrealjazzfest.com for details. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Easy Stratford living

"The play's the thing," wrote William Shakespeare, but the life-loving Bard of Avon would have been the first one to insist that you have to eat, drink and sleep decently as well — especially if you're about to see a play by him.

The Stratford Festival began previews for their season this week and so it's a logical time to start thinking of where to dine and where to drowse in Stratford. The only thing to remember is that no matter where you plan on going, reservations are a must in July and August and are a good idea on weekends.

TORSTAR FILE PHOTO
The Stratford Festival season is upon us — book now.

HOTELS:

• **Rundle Morris House** – 9 Coburg St.; 519-271-6442, rundlesrestaurant.com/MorrisHouse.htm

This is probably the single most stylish place you can stay at the festival. It's a one-of-a-kind house, superbly designed, with two bedrooms, two bathrooms, living room, dining room and kitchen. Breakfast is served and you can also have dinner from the superb restaurant next door.

• **Mercer Hall Inn** – 108 Ontario St.; 1-888-816-4011, mercerhallinn.com

It's on Stratford's main street and you can walk to any of the theatres in a matter of minutes, but the 14 rooms are so quiet and beautifully laid-out, you might think you're in a country resort. Some of them even have double Jacuzzis.

• **Touchstone Manor** – 325 St. David St.; 519-273-5820, touchstone-manor.com

Even if you firmly believe you're not quite a B&B kind of person, this one would change your mind in one night. There are four exquisitely appointed rooms in one of Stratford's loveliest buildings, built in Georgian Revival style and if God is in the details, I hear this place is heaven, with downy-soft robes, bedtime cookies and morning coffee waiting by your door.

RESTAURANTS:

• **The Church** – 70 Brunswick St.; 519-273-3424, churchrestaurant.com

Yes, there are a lot of great restaurants in Stratford, but this is the one against which all others must be measured. The menu changes each year and this season promises delights like Coconut and Leek Vichyssoise, Rare Breast and Confit Leg of Squab and a Warm Upside-Down Fig and Frangipane Tart.

• **Pazzo** — 70 Ontario St.; 1.877.440.9666, pazzo.ca

You could easily visit this basement pizzeria here for years and truly never get tired of it. Cozy in cold weather, refreshing when it's hot, it features a reasonably priced selection of fine choice salads and pastas, but the real attraction is the wood-oven, thin-crust pizza. You can customize your own or order one of their specials.

• **Ken's Chuckwagon** – Behind Old City Hall, Downie St.

There's a beauty to doing one thing well and Ken's has been mastering it for decades now. The well-aged chip wagon opens behind Old City Hall about noon and serves french fries until sundown. That's it. Nothing but chips.

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Wahlberg, Franco join Date Night

Mark Wahlberg and James Franco have just signed on to a new film and they join an impressive group of co-stars. They have been cast in the comedy Date Night, which stars Steve Carell and Tina Fey as a married couple, Variety reports. **MSN.COM**

Entertainment

Family Gal

Lauren Conrad has landed a new role — as the girlfriend of a dog on the hit animated comedy Family Guy. Conrad plays herself in the episode, in which she dates family dog Brian. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Films break the news

JON TATTRIE
for Metro Canada

As newsrooms slowly die across the country, one journalist is hunting for the killer. Well, a killer. In Russell Crowe's new movie, State of Play, he stars as a grizzled hack dodging bullets to track down a murderer, rekindling our love affair with silver screen ink slingers in the process.

Anne McNeilly, assistant professor of journalism at Ryerson University, thinks movies set in newsrooms are so popular because the work itself is exhilarating.

"As soon as news happens anywhere, you know about it first. 9/11, how exciting was that? A hostage taking downtown, you know about in a second. It's a buzz."

McNeilly started in small papers before working 25 years for the Globe & Mail and Ottawa Citizen. It was movies like All The President's Men that drew her to newspapers.

"Journalists get hooked on that adrenaline rush, because it's like a drug. You get so addicted you can't leave the biz," she explains. That excitement translates to the viewer.

"I love movies about newsrooms," she says, citing His Girl Friday and Deadline USA as favourites.

"What's so unnerving (at Ryerson) is that lots of the students now have never heard of Woodward and Bernstein. They don't even know what Watergate is," she says. "They brought down a president! What's a bigger story than that?"

While her students retain some of the idealism of previous generations, they are already jaded and prefer a different kind of fictional news hound. "They like Jon Stewart or Rick Mercer. Some of them think what they are doing is journalism."

Richard Crouse, Metro's movie columnist, cites All the President's Men and another Crowe movie, The Insider, as great examples of the genre.

"The reporters in these films act as surrogates for the viewer. They ask the questions the viewer would ask," he explains. "You've got newspapers who are bringing down big, evil corporations or taking on city hall and winning. It really appeals to people."

Crouse highlights Billy Wilder's 1951 movie Ace in the Hole as a newsroom flick that got too close to the truth. Kirk Douglas plays an out-of-luck journalist who risks lives to stretch a news story that could save his career in Wilder's follow up to Sunset Boulevard.

"It's a terrific movie, but it bombed really badly," he says. "Movie historians think the journalists who were reviewing the film were so offended by it that they trashed it."

All the news that's fit to film

Looking to investigate the journalism-on-film genre a little more closely? Here are Metro's suggestions:

- Shattered Glass
- The Killing Fields
- The Paper
- All the President's Men
- Broadcast News
- The Insider
- Absence of Malice
- Good Night and Good Luck
- Salvador
- Wag the Dog
- Blood Diamonds
- Capote
- Citizen Kane
- The China Syndrome
- The Year of Living Dangerously

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Movie **feature**

GLEN WILTON PHOTO

Russell Crowe and Rachel McAdams star in State of Play, a political thriller about a rising politician and an investigative journalist embroiled in a case of seemingly unrelated murders.

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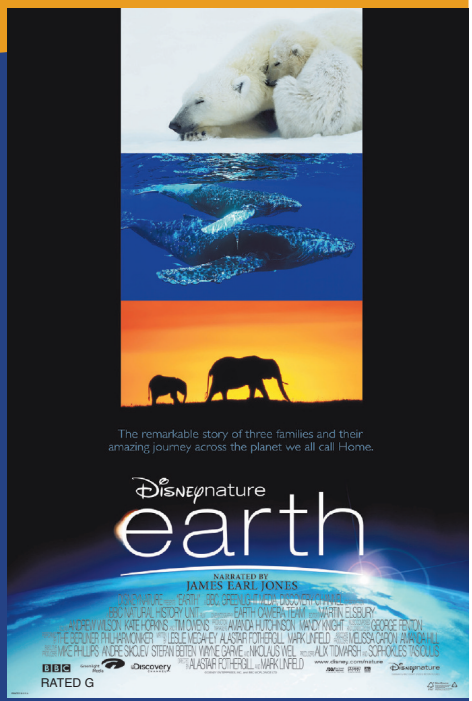

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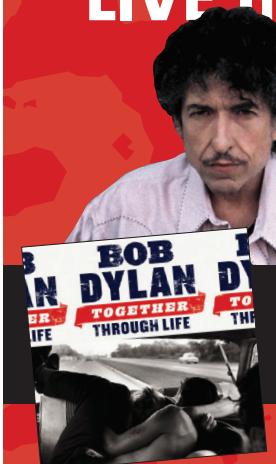

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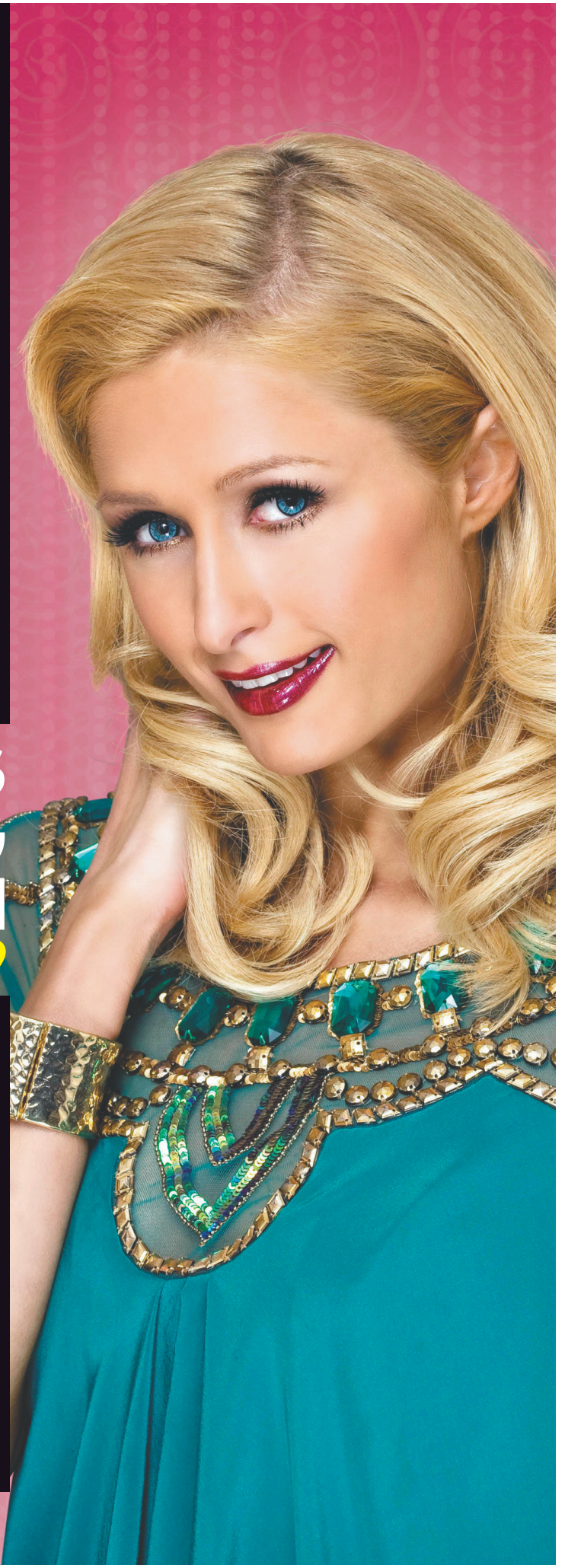

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THURSDAY
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FRIDAY
DOGG AFTER DARK (6PM)
MUCHMOVIE: THE MATRIX (9PM)

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Winstone, Knightley team up
Ray Winstone and Keira Knightley are set to play unlikely lovers in a new gangster film. The pair signed to star with Colin Farrell in London Boulevard. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Corner Gas fans say goodbye

Saskatchewan fans said so long Monday night to Corner Gas,' the popular TV sitcom that brought their quirky prairie lives to the rest of the world.

"I'm really sad that it's over," Shelley Schafer of Saskatoon said as credits of the show's final episode rolled on a large flat screen TV.

Schafer and her two children were among 40 fans gathered at The Granary restaurant for a farewell party hosted by a local radio station.

Corner Gas, wrapping after six seasons, is widely regarded as the most popular Canadian TV show ever. It chronicles the goings-on in the fictional town of Dog River, Sask.

"It's very Saskatchewan humour and very much part of the fabric of Saskatchewan," said Theresa Kirkpatrick. "This has been part of my Monday nights for a long time."

Across the street at the Saskatchewan Made store, manager Karen Parenteau said Corner Gas T-shirts, caps and air fresheners have been selling fast.

"People are getting a last grab at the stuff," said Parenteau, a fan of the show herself.

"It's going to leave a big hole in the Monday night programming."

Corner Gas was shot on location in the tiny town of Rouleau, southwest of Regina, where tens of thousands of fans have flocked since its debut in 2004.

Mayor Allen Kuhlmann said dozens more fans were walking around town Monday snapping photos of the non-functioning gas station and adjoining Ruby Cafe, scenic mainstays of the show.

TROY FLEECE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Producer and director Brent Butt, films a scene from the last season of Corner Gas.

"It is bittersweet," he said. "We knew that it had to end someday. I just guess we wished it hadn't stopped quite this quick."

The show has injected about $1 million into the economy of the town, population 400.

Kuhlmann said a regular town council meeting prevented him from catching the last episode, but he plans to buy the final season on DVD to add to his collection.

"That was one of the things that we really liked about the show — it was good clean fun and you could laugh out loud several times in a half an hour. It's not everyday you can find a program like that to watch," he said.

Celebrities and politicians, including Prime Minister Stephen Harper, have made cameos on the show.

"Corner Gas has kept Canadian families, including my own, laughing for the last six seasons," Harper said in a news release.

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Singer wows judges

A middle-aged volunteer church worker with the voice of an angel is Britain's latest unlikely showbiz star.

Susan Boyle, 47, wowed judges and audience alike when she performed on the television contest Britain's Got Talent.

By Tuesday, a video clip of Boyle's performance on Internet site YouTube has been watched more than 2.7 million times.

The unemployed Scot, who said she'd "never been kissed," drew titters when she told the judges her ambition was to be a professional singer.

But her soaring rendition of I Dreamed a Dream from the musical Les Miserables astonished the show's hard-to-please judges.

They were captivated by the singer from Blackburn in western Scotland. Usually acerbic judge Simon Cowell dubbed her singing "extraordinary." Fellow judge Piers Morgan said her "stunning" performance was "the biggest surprise I've had in three years of this show."

Susan Boyle

The show, the first in a new series of "Britain's Got Talent," was watched by 11.4 million of Britain's 60 million people on Saturday night.

British bookmakers made Boyle the early favourite to win the series.

She is the latest in a proud tradition of underdogs who win the heart of the British public.

Britain's Got Talent made a star of its first winner, an unassuming mobile phone salesman named Paul Potts. He wowed audiences and has become a global recording star since winning the series — and signing to Cowell's record label — in 2007.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On the web

- To see video of Susan Boyle on Britain's Got Talent, visit metronews.ca/entertainment

Goody's husband is jailed for attack

CRIME The husband of reality television star Jade Goody, who died of cancer last month, has been jailed for 12 weeks for attacking a cab driver.

Jack Tweed, 21, was sentenced Tuesday at Harlow Magistrates' Court northeast of London. He had denied the assault charge.

Tweed's wife died March 22 after a highly publicized battle with cervical cancer. The couple married in a media extravaganza two months before her death.

Goody's last months were marked by an outpouring of public sympathy.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In brief

TELEVISION Lil' Kim nearly had a big wardrobe malfunction on Dancing With the Stars. This week's front-runner on the ABC dance competition had some trouble with her top at the end of a jive with partner Derek Hough on Monday night.

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IN THEATRES APRIL 9

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Lost's Holloway has a daughter
Lost heartthrob Josh Holloway and wife Yessica welcomed a daughter on April 9 in Oahu, People has exclusively confirmed. PEOPLE.COM

Fong emerges a winner

Designer admits early struggles on Project Runway Canada

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada

With consistency, creativity and skill, Toronto designer Sunny Fong followed his instincts to emerge victorious on last night's Project Runway Canada finale.

Fong's win came as little surprise to viewers or his competitors as the 32-year-old designer had racked up the most challenge wins and garnered frequent praise from the judges throughout the competition.

Despite his talent, Fong says he struggled early on to find confidence in his work.

"My biggest challenge initially was believing in what I did. I had to get over that first, after that I learned to trust my own instincts," Fong said.

In the early stages of the competition, Fong figured he would stick to simple designs to stay under the radar as much as possible, but quickly shifted his strategy when he realized the judges meant business.

"I went in thinking I'm going to do my best but be very safe. A few episodes in, I realized safe wasn't going to be good enough," Fong said.

Project Runway Canada winner Sunny Fong.

"A few episodes in, I realized safe wasn't going to be good enough."
Sunny Fong, designer

While the time constraints to produce garments on the show were extreme, Fong says he thinks the challenge really brought the best out of designers.

"Working under pressure is sort of my thing. The whole rushed, mad dash to get everything done is always the case with fashion. I think it really shows who is confident and ready to win," Fong said.

Fong started his own clothing line, named Vawk, in 2003 but closed it after just two years because he ran out of money. Before winning he had said if he didn't win he would probably give up on fashion forever.

Now with his win of $100,000 and a retail mentorship at Winners, Fong hopes to use all the experience he has gained from Project Runway Canada to restart his brand and keep it afloat this time around.

"I'm hoping to get my line really stable and make sure it doesn't shut down again. I don't want to rush it," he said.

He has no secrets as to how he finds inspiration, although he says he gets plenty of ideas from hanging around the house.

"I get inspired from the things I see. Home decorating and interior design really inspires me because it's a lifestyle," Fong said.

During the competition, Fong had said the one thing he hoped for more than winning was to hear his mother say she was proud of him. He got his wish just before his final collection got revealed at Toronto's LG Fashion Week.

"She told me that before I even won. It was a great feeling," he said.

TO 4/15/09

primetime

Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
265	353	2 TVO	Lemur Street	Lemur Street	The Agenda With Steve Paikin		The Last Enemy (N)		Human Edge		Agenda-Paikin
211	331	3 GTV	ET Canada	Entertainment	Bones (HDTV PA) (N)		Life "One" (N)		(10:02) The Unusuals		News
215	343	4 OMN1	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons	News (N)		Vivere Il	News (N)	The Simpsons	King of the Hill	Metropia
210	302	6 CBC	NHL Hockey Playoffs -- Teams TBA. (HDTV) (Live)					National	NHL Hockey Playoffs -- Teams TBA.		
214	344	7 CITY	Law & Order: SVU		Scrubs	Friends	Nip/Tuck (HDTV)		Murdoch Mysteries (HDTV)		News (N)
212	313	8 CTV	etalk	Hollywood	Criminal Minds (HDTV)		American Idol		CSI: NY (HDTV) (N)		News (N)
218	345	11 E!	The Insider (N)	E! News	Better Off Ted	Better Off Ted	Janice Dickinson Modeling		Running-Heels	Kardashians	News (N)
137	763	13 TFO	Panorama		Destination Nor'Ouest 2		*La Terre abandonnée* (2005, Drame) Mahendra Perera.				Imagerie
-	-	14 -	Raymond	Raymond	News (N)		News (N)		Two/Half Men	King	Cold Case
213	326	15 SUN	Scrubs	George Lopez	*The Wives He Forgot* (2006, Suspense) Molly Ringwald.				To Serve and Protect		Becker
-	387	16 CBS	Inside Edition	Hollywood	Old Christine	Gary Unmarr	Criminal Minds (HDTV)		CSI: NY (HDTV) (N)		News (N)
-	385	17 NBC	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	Law & Order "Zero"		Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order "Chattel"		News (N)
-	386	18 ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Scrubs	Better Off Ted	Lost "Some Like It Hoth"		(10:02) The Unusuals		News (N)
219	346	20 ACH-B	Instant Star	TMZ (N)	America's Next Top Model (N)		Lost "Some Like It Hoth"		Law & Order "Chattel"		News (N)
-	-	28 FOX	Judge Judy (N)	Two/Half Men	Bones (HDTV PA) (N)		American Idol		Seinfeld	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons
-	388	61 PBS	News-Lehrer	Mulberry	Planet Forward (N)		Great Performances at the Met "Lucia di Lammermoor" (HDTV) (N)				
297	652	330 WPX	Two/Half Men	Family Guy	America's Next Top Model (N)		90210 "Okaeri, Donna!"		PIX News at Ten Tong.		Two/Half Men
296	654	331 SBK	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Dr. Phil (HDTV)		WBZ News (N)	What's-Store	Frasier	Frasier	Punk'd
298	653	332 TLA	Jamie Foxx	Wayans Bros.	My Wife-Kids	According-Jim	Friends	KTLA News	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Next Model

news

Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
502	390	26 NW	CBC News	Newman	The Hour		CBC News: The National		CBC News: The National		National
500	500	33 CNN	Lou Dobbs Tonight		Campbell Brown: No Bias		Larry King Live (N)		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)		
509	504	79 CNB	Kudlow Report		CNBC Reports (HDTV)		American Greed		On the Money		Mad Money

sports

Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
405	417	22 net	UFC: Access	Jays	MLB Baseball Toronto Blue Jays at Minnesota Twins. (HDTV) (Live)						Sportsnet Con.
400	400	30 TSN	NHL Hockey Playoffs -- Teams TBA. (HDTV) (Live)						SportsCentre (HDTV) (Live)		
411	457	58 OLN	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Departures		Mantracker	Mantracker	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Departures
417	406	81 SC	Pimp My Ride	Pass Time	Amer. Thunder	Pinks Outtakes	Pinks	Drag Race	Drag Race	Wrecked	Pimp My Ride

family

Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
551	542	25 YTV	In Real Life (N)		Malcolm-Mid.	Futurama	Karaoke Star Junior		Falcon Beach		Mystery Hnt.
554	544	45 TEL	Totally Spies	Total Drama	6TEEN	6TEEN	Futurama	American Dad	Robot Chicken	Father of Pride	Moral Orel
556	540	51 FAM	Wizards-Place	Han. Montana	Zack & Cody	Latest Buzz	Wizards-Place	Life Derek	Ned's School	Cory in House	Zack & Cody

cable variety

Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
602	567	27 W	Will & Grace	Friends	Grocery Bag	Grocery Bag	Supersize vs. Superskinny		Stuck (N)	Maxed Out (N)	Maxed Out
570	580	29 MM	The O.C.		disBand	disBand	Paris Hilton's British Friend		Instant Star	Instant Star	PunchMuch
615	520	31 A&E	CSI: Miami "Prey"		Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Dog the Bounty Hunter		Bounty Hunter	Exterminators	Exterminators
700	800	35 TLN	Centrovetrine	Sky TG 24	Extralarge 2				Raymond	Raymond	George Lopez
571	581	36 MMM	The Daily Fix		Ranked!		Gimme Sugar	Gimme Sugar	Entourage	Gene Simmons	The Daily Fix
575	583	38 CMT	(6) CMT's Greatest		Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Reba	Reba	Hope & Faith	Hope & Faith	Totally "2001"
616	521	39 SHO	The Outer Limits		Cashing In	About a Girl	G-Spot	Cock'd Gunns	The Starter Wife (HDTV)		House
620	523	40 BVO	The Achievers	Landscape	Arts & Minds	Bravo!Videos	Wingfield	Wingfield	Southland "Pilot"		Law & Order
601	562	41 SLC	Skin Deep	Til Debt-Part	Chop Shop	End of Leash	End of Leash	End of Leash	End of Leash	End of Leash	ET Canada
522	506	43 HIS	NCIS "Ex-File"		Outlaw Bikers		Ice Road Truckers		NCIS "Ex-File"		Sea Hunters
625	548	44 COM	Air Farce	Just for Laughs		Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	Jon Dore Show	Demetri Martin	Daily Show
600	564	46 H&G	House Hunters	Property Virgin	Big City Broker	The Stagers	Unsellable	Hid Potential	House Hunters	House Hunters	Holmes-Homes
294	529	47 TBS	MLB Baseball Florida Marlins at Atlanta Braves. (HDTV) From Turner Field in Atlanta. (Live)						Home Videos	Seinfeld	Family Guy
576	582	49 BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live		*The Contractor* (2007, Action) Wesley Snipes.				The Game	Harlem Heights	*The Contractor*
627	528	50 SPC	Stargate Atlantis (DVS)		Star Trek: Voyager		Primeval		Stormworld (N)	Grand Star	Stargate SG-1
581	566	52 MTV	Mom & Dad	After	MTV News	Cribs	Fantasy Fact.	Nitro Circus	Real World-Road Rules		MTV Live
618	524	54 TROP	Vanity Insanity	Ad Persuasion	Ad Persuasion	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Raymond	Family Guy	Married... With	Seinfeld
603	561	56 FOOD	Chef at Home	Fresh-Anna	Diner, Drive-In	Diner, Drive-In	Iron Chef America		Ultimate Recipe Showdown		Opening Soon
261	394	60 V	Murder, She Wrote		Keeping Up	Foot in Grave	All About George (N)		Driven-Vision	Supernatural	Poltergeist
621	527	63 STR	The Ellen DeGeneres Show (N)		TMZ (N)	etalk	This Is... Gwen Stefani		The Tonight Show-Jay Leno		TMZ
553	546	65 TRE	Backyardigans	Nght Grdn	Max & Ruby	Franklin	Little Bear	Bucket-Dinos	Comfy Couch	Big & Small	Max & Ruby
115	711	101 TVA	Poule-oeufs or	Bloopers TVA	Destinées (N) (SC)		Dommages et intérêts (SC)		TVA 22 heures	(10:45) Denis Lévesque	
126	730	102 RDI	24 Heures en 60 minutes		Grands reportages (SC)		Le Téléjournal (SC)		RDI en direct	Le National	Le Téléjournal
526	507	249 VIVA	Judging Amy "Lullaby"		Medium "Still Life"		Medium		Mediums	Psychic Detect	Mediums
300	601	301 M1	*Lethal Obsession* (2007, Suspense)			Tracey Ullman	*Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End* ★★ (2007, Adventure)				
305	612	306 PIX	(7:10) *Exotica* ★★★ (1994, Drama), Mia Kirshner				*Reindeer Games* (2000, Crime Drama)				(10:45) *Varian's War*

critics' corner

The Jon Dore Television Show
Just say no, kids, and don't try this at home. Actually, kids should just say no to this show altogether; between the subject matter and the language, it's definitely adult fare. In the season finale, after helping the police bust a pot smoker and then learning his neighbor uses marijuana for medicinal purposes, Jon is confused about drugs, why some are illegal and some aren't. He decides to educate himself by trying them. All of them. At once. 10 PM on COM

NHL Hockey
Winter has turned to spring in most corners of the country except NHL fandom, where the season of ice extends into June with the onset of sports' most grueling and exciting postseason, the Stanley Cup playoffs. TSN kicks things off tonight with a conference quarterfinal contest, then splits coverage of the first three rounds with CBC Television. CBC will have exclusive coverage of the Stanley Cup Finals. 7 PM on TSN

Israel's president tries new career

JERUSALEM Israel's 85-year-old president, Shimon Peres, is kicking off a new career — as a TV host.

The Nobel Peace Prize laureate's show will be called A Meeting of the Minds at the President's House, his spokeswoman, Ayelet Frisch, said Tuesday.

The program will deal with important issues in Israeli society and topics "close to the president's heart," she said. One episode, airing this week, deals with relations between Arabs and Jews in Israel. In another, Peres will speak with up-and-coming young Israelis from different field.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In brief

TELEVISION Boston's NBC affiliate has decided to air Jay Leno's new show after all. WHDH-TV owner Ed Ansin issued a brief statement Monday saying that "upon further consideration," the station had decided to telecast Leno's 10 p.m. talk show beginning in September. WHDH had previously said it would run a local newscast in that time slot instead, prompting a threat from NBC to strip the station of its network affiliation.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Priestley kid No. 2 on the way
Actor Jason Priestley and his makeup artist wife Naomi Lowde are expecting their second child, his publicist told usmagazine.com. He and Lowde, who was sporting what looked like a baby bump, were spotted shopping over the weekend. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity Buzz

Zac's fan bribing

PEOPLE Zac Efron uses posters of himself as bribes, femalefirst.co.uk reports. The actor always keeps memorabilia of his films in the trunk of his car to help him get out of difficult situations.

To get away from photographers, he pulls into the studio lot, he explains.

"The first time I did it, they weren't going to let me in. The guy at the gate was like, 'What are you going to do for me?' I said, 'What do you want me to do?' He's like, 'I got kids.' And I was like, 'Well, I got a poster in the trunk.'"

Efron said he hates to keep paraphernalia from his film High School Musical in his house, instead filling his garage and parents' home with merchandise.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Lindsay copes post-breakup

PEOPLE Lindsay Lohan has celebrated her split from DJ lover Samantha Ronson with a new tattoo. The actress has had a famous line uttered by tragic Hollywood icon Marilyn Monroe inked on her wrist, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The phrase "Everyone's a star and deserves the right to twinkle" is surrounded by yellow, blue and green stars.

Lohan has been a longtime fan of the movie great — she recreated Monroe's famous nude 1962 photo to shoot for New York magazine last year.

Lohan may have had her share of problems, but she hasn't lost the ability to laugh at herself, people.com adds. In a new video posted at funnyordie.com, she parodies the ubiquitous ads for the dating service eHarmony.

"Hi, My name is Lindsay, and I'm looking for love. I'm recently single ... I think," she says, referring to her recent split with Samantha Ronson. "I'm looking for someone I can spend the rest of my life with ... or at least the rest of my probation."

Lohan also references her DUI arrests by referring to herself as "a workaholic, a shopaholic, and, according to the state of California, an alcoholic."

In the video, she asks potential suitors if they can handle a "redhead with a little bit of sass, and by that I mean a redhead that's crazy," before rolling her eyes and saying, "Don't pretend like you don't know me. We've all read about it." METRO NEWS SERVICES

Who's Miley?: Jamie

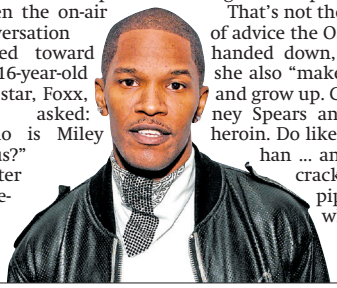
PEOPLE Actor Jamie Foxx had some choice words for Miley Cyrus on his Sirius radio show The Foxxhole, people.com reports.

When the on-air conversation veered toward the 16-year-old pop star, Foxx, 41, asked: "Who is Miley Cyrus?"

After someone explained she is the star of Hannah Montana, Foxx quipped, "The one with all the gums? She's got to get a gum transplant!"

That's not the only piece of advice the Oscar winner handed down, suggesting she also "make a sex tape and grow up. Get like Britney Spears and do some heroin. Do like Lindsay Lohan ... and get some crack in your pipe ... That's what I want."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Mel's monster divorce?

DIVORCE Mel Gibson may soon be writing one of the biggest checks of his life — to his wife, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

With no indication that the estranged couple — who married 28 years ago — had a pre-nup, Robyn Gibson, 53, is legally entitled in their divorce to half of everything the actor-director-producer earned from their marriage in 1980 to the date of their legal separation: A fortune estimated at close to $1 billion US.

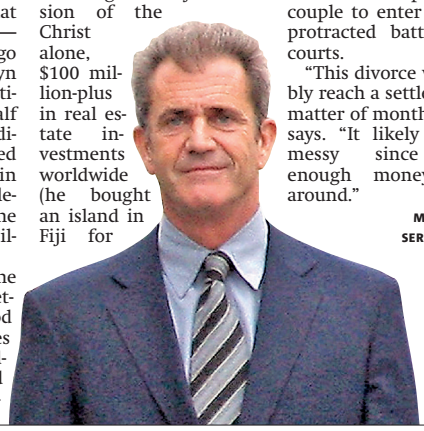
"This could easily be one of the biggest divorce settlements in Hollywood history," says Los Angeles family lawyer Lynn Soodik, who's not involved with the case. "Any attorney would advise her to take half."

Among Gibson's estimated assets: More than $600 million grossed by The Passion of the Christ alone, $100 million-plus in real estate investments worldwide (he bought an island in Fiji for $15 million in 2004), and $75 million for film and TV projects for which Gibson executive produced.

But don't expect the ex-couple to enter a painful, protracted battle in the courts.

"This divorce will probably reach a settlement in a matter of months," Soodik says. "It likely won't be messy since there's enough money to go around."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



GETTY IMAGES

Scientology school for Suri?

PEOPLE The Daily Mail is reporting that Suri Cruise is getting ready to start Scientology school soon after her third birthday, and will be attending L.A.'s New Village Academy, founded by Will Smith.

"(Mom) Katie (Holmes) is understandably a little anxious about being separated from Suri," a source tells the paper. But according the school, the rumour's "not accurate information," a rep tells radaronline.com. "Students start at age four and above."

METRO WORLD NEWS

New girlfriend for Chris?

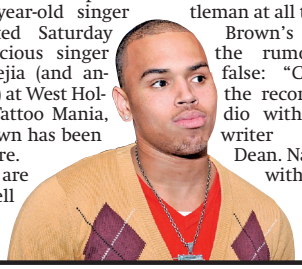
RUMOUR Chris Brown doesn't have a new girlfriend, usmagazine.com reports.

The 19-year-old singer was spotted Saturday with Girlicious singer Natalie Mejia (and another man) at West Hollywood's Tattoo Mania, where Brown has been inked before.

"Things are going well between us..." Mejia, 20, coyly told radaronline.com. "(Brown) has treated me like a gentleman at all times."

Brown's rep says the rumours are false: "Chris left the recording studio with a songwriter named Dean. Natalie was with Dean."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



I was too peach, not pregnant: Mimi

PEOPLE Mariah Carey insists she is not pregnant: She was just wearing a bad outfit, usmagazine.com reports.

On Easter Sunday, Carey was photographed in a tight, peach dress with husband Nick Cannon. Blogs soon began speculating that she was pregnant.

"I don't know what was worse, the bleak angles and bright peach dress ... or the b.s. commentary/blogs," she says (via Twitter).

She says she "could've definitely lived without" seeing the pictures. (She also admits that her "dress and hair" were not suitable for the "red carpet.")

Her rep denied she and Cannon spent Easter Sunday at a fertility clinic, but instead were with family.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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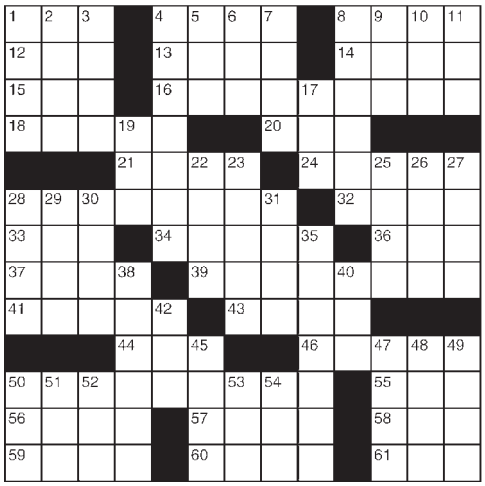


Crossword across

1 Bookkeeper (Abbr.)
4 Harvest
8 "The Amazing —"
12 Clumsy sort
13 Beige
14 Vivacity
15 "CSI" evidence
16 Claim
18 Match
20 Attempt
21 Church service
24 Famous
28 Count
32 Unclothed
33 Before
34 Berate
36 Zero
37 "Zounds!"
39 Pretend to be
41 Decorator's theme
43 Ice cream holder
44 Jungfrau, for one
46 Dutch cheese
50 Specify as a condition
55 Rep. or Dem.
56 Aching
57 Bread spread
58 Choose
59 Sport
60 Hammerhead part
61 Ultramodernist

Crossword down

1 Last few notes
2 Hunger symptom
3 Somewhere out there
4 Undoes an amendment
5 Green, in a sense
6 Esses' precederers
7 Short shot
8 Trust
9 Carte lead-in
10 Tabby
11 Chemical suffix
17 Coffee shop vessel
19 Ostrich's kin
22 Anatomical pouches
23 Unemotional
25 Albacore, e.g.
26 Tend texts
27 Drop a line?
28 Abound
29 Jason's ship
30 Tempo
31 Ticklish Muppet
35 Castle's jail cell
38 Nappy
40 Writer Buscaglia
42 Winter ailment
45 Sit down heavily
47 "Once — a time"
48 Nitwit
49 Choir member
50 Away from NNE
51 Pirouette pivot
52 Savings-plan acronym
53 Hearty quaff
54 Placekicker's prop

Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

		7	8	9		6		5
4		5	3					9
	9							
8		9			6			
		2				9		
			7			2		1
							1	
3					4	8		6
2		6		1	7	3		

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

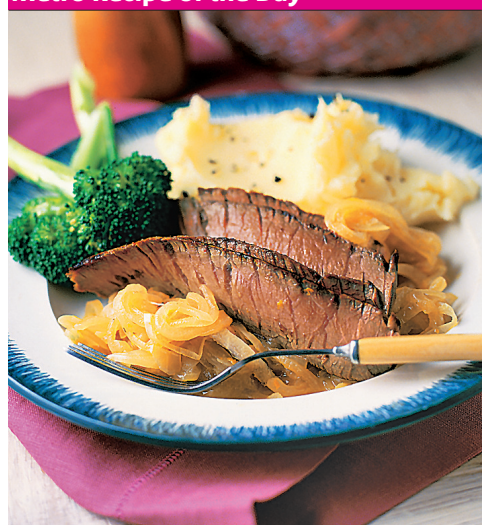
8	7	3	4	1	9	5	6	2
4	9	6	2	8	5	1	3	7
1	2	5	3	7	6	8	4	9
7	4	9	5	6	2	3	8	1
5	8	2	1	3	7	4	9	6
3	6	1	8	9	4	7	2	5
9	1	4	7	2	3	6	5	8
6	3	7	9	5	8	2	1	4
2	5	8	6	4	1	9	7	3

Find today's answers + play more games at metronews.ca

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:

Under 13 min .....Genius
13-17 min.....Scholar
17-21 min .....Smart
21-25 min.....Not bad
25+ min.....Keep practising

Metro Recipe of the Day



Steak and Onions

INGREDIENTS:

2 tsp (10 ml) olive oil
5 large onions, halved and thinly sliced
1 tbsp (15 ml) sugar
3 tbsp (45 ml) balsamic vinegar
1 tbsp (15 ml) orange zest
1/4 cup fresh orange juice
3/4 tsp (4 ml) oregano
3/4 tsp (4 ml) salt
1/2 tsp (2 ml) black pepper
1 lb (500 g) well-trimmed boneless beef top round, cut about 2 in. (5 cm) thick
1 tsp (5 mL) garlic powder
1/4 tsp (1 ml) cayenne pepper

METHOD:

1. Heat oil in large non-stick frying pan over medium-high heat. Add onions and sugar, and cook, stirring occasionally, until onions begin to brown, 20 minutes.
2. Add vinegar, orange zest, orange juice, 1/2 tsp (2 ml) oregano, 1/2 tsp (2 ml) salt, and black pepper. Cook until onions are wilted and glazed, 5 minutes.
3. Meanwhile, preheat broiler. Rub beef with remaining 1/4 tsp (1 ml) oregano, 1/4 tsp (1 ml) salt, garlic powder and cayenne pepper. Broil beef 4 in. (10 cm) from heat until medium, 5 minutes per side. Let rest 5 minutes before cutting into thin slices. Serve with mashed potatoes and broccoli.

SERVES 4

rd.ca
For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to rd.ca or check out Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!

Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
A blockade leads to victory. Be alert when politics are an eye-opener. Diligence will help you avoid offensive remarks.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Grim people are causing irritation. Greater damage is done by work issues. Try on a new role as a "mover and shaker."

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
A stranger's motives are ambiguous. An authority figure has no time to focus. A nonstop talker is finally silenced by common sense.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
A kind woman makes sure you're happy. Irrational anger continues to vex. A love story must be shared.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
Explain your haste to avoid hurt feelings. Internet contacts expose a weakness in a plan. Plumbing problems become amusing.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Your hands may be tied by someone's exhaustion. Be honest when discussing a crisis. A self-righteous friend disputes a duty.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
Uncertainty about income makes you work harder. Hang around with unconventional people. Refuse to put a damper on love.

SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
A colleague saves you from anxiety. Fresh theories about a cherished venture won't alter reality. A man is anxiously waiting for strength to return.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
A catastrophic conversation has a friend in turmoil. Get smart and build your field of dreams. Don't provoke a quarrel at home.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
Take statements about opportunities with a grain of salt. Let others be responsible for making corrections. A petty tyrant is moody.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
Friends make you consider a change. A down-to-earth woman has a health issue. A visitor anticipates a good decision.

PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
A shocking event makes you unsure about your next step. Get support by flushing out feelings of inadequacy. Prepare for dramatic events.

You take 4,000 steps a day.
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EX model shown

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EDITOR'S PICK LIST[˜]

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EX model shown

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CITY: 10.6 L/100KM 27 MPG

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SIRIUS SATELLITE RADIO

10 YEARS IN CANADA

*MSRP for 2010 Soul 1.6L MT (SO550A) is $15,495. Delivery and destination fees of $1,650 excluded. ◆Cash purchase price for 2009 Rio EX MT (RO5429)/2009 Rondo LX AT (RN7519) is $9,995/$16,695 and includes a cash rebate of $3,600/$3,300 based on an MSRP of $13,595/$19,995. Delivery and destination fees of $1,455/$1,650 excluded. License, registration, insurance, dealer administration fees and taxes are excluded. Other lease and finance options also available. Dealers are free to set individual prices. Prices subject to change without notice. Certain restrictions may apply. §Kia's Integrity Advantage is underwritten by Echelon General Insurance Company and is valid on any new Kia model financed or leased through an authorized Kia dealer, for up to one year after purchase, and covers negative equity up to $7,500. Please refer to your Kia Integrity Advantage insurance policy document for full terms and conditions. Only available at participating dealers. Restrictions apply. Coverage options vary by province. See your participating Kia dealer for details. The Echelon General Insurance Company logo is a Registered Trademark of Echelon General Insurance Company. ✧0% purchase financing available on all 2009 models for 5 years on approved credit (O.A.C.). Not applicable on future value financing. >Highway/city fuel consumption for 2010 Soul 1.6L MT is 6.3 L (45 MPG)/7.7 L (36 MPG); 2009 Rio EX MT is 5.9 L (48 MPG)/7.3 L (39 MPG); 2009 Rondo LX is 7.5 L (38 MPG)/10.6 L (27 MPG) per 100km. The actual fuel consumption of these vehicles may vary. These estimates are based on the Government of Canada's approved criteria and testing methods. Refer to the Government of Canada publication EnerGuide Fuel Consumption Guide. ‡Green Score for Kia Rio/Rondo based on manual/automatic transmission specification within their segment. Refer to GreenerCars.org for full details. ††NHTSA (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration) test results. Visit www.safercar.gov for full details. ✤Visit autos.msn.com for full details. ^Conditions apply to the $500 Grad Rebate program, see dealer for details. +Some conditions may apply to the $750 Kia Mobility program. See dealer for details. ✤Late availability on Bluetooth hands-free option. ▼Kia's "Worry-Free Comprehensive" warranty covers most vehicle components against defects occurring under normal use and maintenance conditions. Bluetooth technology and SIRIUS® Satellite Radio available on select 2009 models. The Bluetooth® word mark and logo are registered trademarks and are owned by Bluetooth SIG, Inc. © 2009 SIRIUS Canada Inc. See dealer for details. Price, availability and specifications are subject to changes without notice. Some vehicles advertised may include optional accessories or after-sale equipment and may not be exactly as shown. Information in this advertisement is believed to be accurate at the time of print. Offer ends April 30, 2009 and is valid for residents of Ontario and Manitoba only. KIA is a trademark of Kia Motors Corporation.